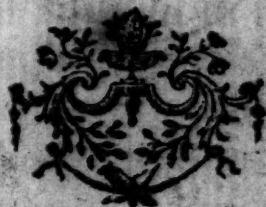


THE
HISTORY
OF
Sir GEORGE ELLISON.
IN TWO VOLUMES. *K*

VOL. I.



L O N D O N:
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HISTORY
PREFACE

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whether he might not have a better
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P R E F A C E.

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The doubt I am in as to this particular, will make me, though I comply with the custom, endeavour to do it in as few words as possible; and with all convenient brevity attempt my excuse for offering to the public the following sheets.

The lives of good or eminent persons have been thought an useful study,

study, as they set before us examples which may incite us to virtue, and trace out to us a path wherein emulation may induce us to walk. But the men whose lives are published are generally above our reach, or out of the sphere of common persons. Great generals, or wise statesmen, are rather objects of wonder than imitation to the common rank of men; saints and martyrs we admire and applaud, but are apt to feel the piety of the former above our powers, and hope never to have occasion for the resolution of the latter: Our hearts are warmed by the contemplation of their virtues, but we seldom sufficiently consider, how the motives which led them to such sublime heights, may be applied to the actions of common life; and for want of this application, we lose the benefits we might reap from their examples.

P R E F A C E. v

This neglect has often led me to think that the life of a man more ordinarily good, whose station and opportunities of acting are on a level with a great part of mankind, might afford a more useful lesson than the lives of his superiors in rank or piety, as more within the reach of imitation. This opinion induced me to collect all the actions that came to my knowledge of the person to whom I have given the name of Ellison, and to reduce them into the regular form of Biography, in order to lay before the public a life, which in some particulars every man, and in all particulars some men may imitate, his actions being confined within the common sphere of persons of fortune, in several articles within the extent of every gentleman's power.

It may be said by some, that on the same principle I ought to have selected
a cha-

vi P R E F A C E.

a character more faulty, one where-
in the virtues are blended with such
imperfections, as bring it nearer the
common level, and render it of more
easy imitation; whereas a character
so free from vice, may discourage the
attempt in those who feel a greater
mixture of evil in their own disposi-
tions. But I confess myself of a dif-
ferent way of thinking; the chief use
I have seen made of mixed charac-
ters, has been to gather from them a
sanction for the worst parts of our
own. We are inclined to say, 'If this
' good man had such a vice or failing,
' surely mine may be excused, it is not
' of a more hurtful kind; or, if it is,
' some of my virtues are of a more
' useful nature; therefore taking their
' superiority into the account, the bal-
' lance will be rendered equal.' Thus
the faults of good people do more
harm than the errors of the less vir-
tuous, and when we would exhibit a
character

P R E F A C E. vii

character proper for imitation, we should rather endeavour to conceal the failings which may have stolen into a good heart, than industriously seek to discover them.

I have already intimated that the name of Ellison is a borrowed one; possibly, if I have any readers in Dorsetshire, some of them may say, they know no such person there; though I rather hope the county contains so many gentlemen who resemble Sir George, that several will be pointed as the originals from whence his character is drawn. But should this hope be disappointed, and the former supposition prove fact, let them consider, that I am at liberty to conceal the place of my friend's real abode, as well as his real name, and may substitute a fictitious one in the place of either.

viii **P R E F A C E.**

If any one should object, that Sir George Ellison is too good to have existed any where but in imagination, I must intreat my censurer will, before he determines this point, endeavour to equal the virtue of Sir George; a request I may the better make, as by indulging me in it, I may venture to assure him he will reap the chief benefit, and if he attempts it with vigour and sincerity, I am persuaded he will find Sir George's conduct within the reach of human powers, when properly applied, and strenuously exerted; for such exertion will not fail of being rewarded by the necessary assistance.

T H E

THE
HISTORY
OF
Sir GEORGE ELLISON.

CHAP. I.

SIR George Ellison's father was the younger son of an ancient and opulent family; but receiving only that small proportion of his father's wealth, which, according to the custom of this country, usually falls to the share of a younger child, his posterity had little chance of inheriting any considerable fortune from him; though he had, by the profession in which he was placed, been enabled to live genteelly. Had his dili-

gence been greater on his first entering it, he might have raised to himself such an income as would have enabled him to make a better provision for his family; and when it was no longer time to repair this error, the sense of it gave him great concern; and to make the best reparation in his power, and what indeed was more than an adequate recompense for the neglect he lamented, he dedicated all the leisure his business allowed him to the care of his children's education. Their learning he left to proper masters; the object of his attention was their hearts. He watched the first rise of every passion, and endeavoured to correct it before time had given it strength. The first dawnings of Virtue he perceived with joy, and encouraged with care; cultivating every good disposition, and inculcating the most amiable and solid principles. He instructed them fully in the Christian religion, and shewed them

them that it was the best foundation, as well as surest support, of moral Virtue.

Before his son George had completed his one and twentieth year, his family, by the death of his wife and two children, was reduced to two sons and one daughter. James his second son was then but twelve, and his daughter fourteen years old. This difference in their ages determined Mr. Ellison to trust in his son George's hands two thirds of the sum of which he was possessed; for this being no more than four thousand pounds, he considered, that when divided, the share of each would be so small as must prove insufficient to place them with tolerable advantage in trade; and the difficulty he had found in providing for his family, had disgusted him with professions; which are better suited to the single, than the married state. By so good a capital, he hoped to

secure the success of his eldest son, whose disposition gave him reason to believe he should thereby do the best service to his other children. He knew the young man to be perfectly sober, humane, and generous, and at the same time an exceeding good œconomist; extremely diligent, and well inclined to that care of, and attention to, his affairs, so necessary for those who undertake merchandize. He had beside a tender affection for his brother and sister, and both loved and revered his father.

Mr. Ellison's conduct may perhaps be censured in this particular. Such entire confidence in so young a man might be injudicious; dangerous it certainly was, and to his son appeared so hazardous, that he opposed, for the first time, his father's inclination, and used every argument prudence could suggest to alter his purpose; but either paternal affection, or real know-

knowledge of George's turn of mind, made him persist in his determination; telling the young man, that, if his success answered his hopes, his protection would greatly repay his brother and sister for any danger they might incur; but to shew that he was not careless of their interests, he took a bond from his son, which secured to them, in case of their father's death, their share of the 4000*l.* to be paid them in two years after his decease, if by that time of age, and obtained his promise, that during those two years, the money should bear six per cent. interest; thus providing for their convenience as much as could be done without hurting their elder brother, whom possibly a more speedy payment might distress.

George Ellison was of a disposition to prosecute warmly and diligently every thing he undertook; therefore, as he entered into merchandize, he wished to

pursue it in the most profitable manner, indifferent as to any inconveniences which might attend it. He knew that many, in consideration of their ease, were unwilling to purchase superior advantages in trade, by leaving their native country; a circumstance to which he had perfectly reconciled himself, by considering a man who has his fortune to make as a citizen of the world; and that the country where he has the best means of living, is most properly his own; subsistence being a more rational cause of attachment than birth. He therefore endeavoured to settle correspondences with some of their less adventurous merchants, by whose means he might negotiate a quick trade from Jamaica, where he intended to fix; and the character he had established in the city, by his excellent behaviour during his apprenticeship with Mr. Lamont, an eminent merchant, rendered him successful in both

both these articles ; and with warm hopes, though tender concern, he took leave of his father and this kingdom, well provided with correspondents here, and recommendations to the principal people in Jamaica.

As my intention in the following sheets is, not so much to give a minute detail of Mr. Ellison's actions, as to record his virtues, and rather to represent him as an object of imitation than of wonder, I shall pass over a few succeeding years of his life very succinctly ; nor do they afford any great variety of incidents, his whole attention being turned to the business he came upon ; which he pursued so successfully, that in two years after his arrival he had increased his stock one third ; and at the same time, had gained the esteem of all who were concerned with him. He now thought it time to remit half his capital to his father, telling him that he could not be easy till he had re-

stored that sum ; for as his sister was become a woman, or nearly so, some advantageous match might offer ; and he should think himself very culpable, if by detaining her fortune, he should deprive her of a good establishment. The remainder he would punctually restore before it could be wanted for his brother.

Old Mr. Ellison was surprized and vexed at this action of his son's, who had given him no previous notice, fearing he would forbid it. He represented the injudiciousness of lessening his capital, before there was any necessary call for it, since he might have made so great a profit upon it, as would much have increased his own fortune, before his sister would have any occasion for hers, as it would be soon enough for her to marry many years hence. And as for the remainder, he desired him to consider that, without assuming any advantages from his seniority, the
third

third of the whole was his share; and in taking no more, his brother and sister would have reason to think he treated them very generously; he therefore insisted on his looking upon that sum as his own; for his great industry, and uncommon merits, could never be a reason for his losing a share of his patrimony.

Young Ellison returned only a vague answer to this letter; he had already taken his resolution, and was determined to adhere to it, but saw no occasion to contend with his father's justice and affection, till the time of putting his design in execution. The more generally he became known, the more extensive his trade grew, as every one wished to be connected with him. His fortune daily encreased beyond his hopes; and he felt the greater satisfaction in it, from finding that his uncommon success had not excited envy; which possibly might in part be owing to

his conduct; for the frugality necessary to a young beginner so far restrained the natural generosity of his temper, that his merit was more conspicuous than his success; his industry, sobriety and temperance, shewed that he had a just title to more than uncommon increase of riches, but his moderation left them so far in doubt whether he had really acquired what he had a right to expect, as prevented their drawing any disagreeable comparisons between his profits, and those of others.

Five years after his first settling at Jamaica, he acquainted his father with his resolution of returning the whole capital he set out with; observing, that he could not think his lawful share was too great a consideration to pay his brother and sister for the hazard they ran in his being intrusted with the whole; a confidence deserving every grateful return to the best of

of fathers; which at the same time, that it gave him the pleasing and encouraging consciousness of possessing the esteem he most wished for, provided him with the means of making a fortune. That Mr. Ellison might not apprehend he was distressing himself, he informed him, that he had now raised a capital of 6000*l.* to which he should always think his father had as good a title as himself.

C H A P. II.

IF Mr. Ellison's good conduct gained him the esteem of his own sex, we may easily suppose the other was not insensible of his merit; especially as it was accompanied by a very fine person, a face handsome from great symmetry of features, but still more from vivacity, sensibility, and sweetness of countenance; a manner and address polite and engaging, and a turn for conversation peculiarly agreeable. Mr. Ironside observes, that Mrs. Jane Lizard

included black eyes and white teeth in her description of a man of merit; perhaps, there are not many women, who on the like occasion would include fewer personal attractions, than found place in Mrs. Jane's. Mr. Ellifon, therefore, was sure to please, since in this sort of merit, he excelled as much as in that of a more substantial nature. As the manners of Jamaica are not peculiarly reserved, many intimations were given to Mr. Ellifon, of the favourable disposition of the ladies; but his attention was so totally engaged by his business, that the strongest hints were lost upon him. He was deficient in the sensations that render a person most quick-sighted in that particular, he was void of vanity (as much at least as a human creature can be) and perfectly indifferent to the whole sex; Cupid is such a bungler, that he seldom hits a mark that is in motion; against an active mind he usually misses his aim; and he had never
been

been able to find Mr. Ellison's sufficiently at leisure to be wounded; business is a shield through which Love's arrows cannot easily penetrate. Amidst all the airs that coquetry could play off upon him, he was frequently computing the profits of his last embarked cargo of sugars and spices; and was in little danger of being captivated by the fairest form, except Commerce, as sometimes personified by the poets, had made her appearance before him; the gums of Arabia, the gems of India, and in short the various riches of different climes, with which they deck her, would have greatly heightened her charms in his eyes; while the egrets, pompons, and bracelets of fashionable nymphs, appeared to him oftener burdensome than ornamental. The politeness of his behaviour, and the cheerfulness of his temper, however, so well concealed the coldness of his heart, that to warm it seemed

seemed no impracticable attempt, and prudence as well as inclination might dispose many to endeavour to gain the affections of so worthy and so successful a young man. No woman had the mortification of thinking she had a rival, till a widow lady entered the lists.

This lady was seven years older than Mr. Ellison, having completed her three and thirtieth year. Though the bloom of youth was past, she was still handsome; had behaved very prudently in the different states of life in which she had appeared; was possessed of ten thousand pounds in money, and a plantation of no less value. This last article might have engaged the attention of men insensible to the charms of her person, or the merit of her conduct; but as Mr. Ellison's close attachment to his business proceeded entirely from a desire of succeeding in a thing he had undertaken, and his ardent wishes

of

of being able without imprudence to return into England before the best part of his life was spent, without any of that love of money which renders people eager after every means of gain, he formed no designs on her, or her fortune. The widow was not equally insensible; she saw in him every quality that could recommend him to a woman of prudence; for his youth was a trifling objection she overlooked; and it seldom happens that either sex in the choice of a companion for life are guilty of a less oversight; or if she saw it, she thought it not her business to point it out; that rather was his part. Mr. Ellison's friends perceived the partiality which had passed unnoticed by him, and persuaded him not to let slip so good an opportunity of improving his fortune; since without those advantages, her character and person rendered it an eligible match. Though Mr. Ellison had not till
now

now entertained any thoughts of matrimony, yet it was a state he had always intended to enter, when his affairs should render it convenient; and he should meet with a woman who could engage his affections. He therefore listened without reluctance to the advice of his friends, The lady was agreeable, her fortune desirable; and though his heart was void of those nice sensibilities, which he wished to feel for the woman with whom he entered into so intimate a connection, yet he flattered himself that her merit, joined with her personal charms, must soon excite a strong affection in a heart naturally warm and tender.

There was little reason to suppose his father would object to an alliance so advantageous; but possibly he might have formed some views which this marriage might frustrate, and therefore be disagreeable to him: at least the young man was
sensible

sensible he should feel double satisfaction if he had his father's sanction, and therefore would not make any direct address to the lady, till he had received that necessary consent. His father took the first opportunity of removing this impediment, sending not only his consent but his approbation, accompanied with the warmest wishes for his happiness.

Mr. Ellison, whose inclination for the lady had increased with acquaintance, received his father's letter with joy; and now making an express declaration of his attachment, in terms of esteem and rational affection, rather than in the inflated phrase of passion, the widow, without coquettish airs, or affected reluctance, accepted his proposal, and the marriage was soon completed.

By the alteration of his fortune Mr. Ellison found his sphere of action extended: But (as is frequently the case) this gave him

him great uneasiness. The thing which had chiefly hurt him during his abode in Jamaica, was the cruelty exercised on one part of mankind; as if the difference of complexion excluded them from the human race, or indeed as if their not being human could be an excuse for making them wretched. Slavery was so abhorrent to his nature, and in his opinion so unjustly inflicted, that he had hitherto avoided the keeping any negroes; chusing rather to give such advantages to his servants, as rendered it very easy to get the few he wanted from England. But the case was now altered; he had with his wife married a considerable plantation, cultivated by a numerous race of slaves, nor could his affairs go on without them. This much embittered his possession; and perhaps few have more severely lamented their being themselves enslaved by marriage, than he did his being thus become

the

the enslaver of others. According to the present state of the island he was sensible he could not abolish this slavery, even on his own estate, and saw no means of rendering happy the poor wretches, whose labours were to yield him affluence. His uneasiness astonished Mrs. Ellison; she had a reasonable share of compassion for a white man or woman, but had from her infancy been so accustomed to see the most shocking cruelties exercised on the blacks, that she could not conceive how one of that complexion could excite any pity. But they had not been married above a week, before Mr. Ellison gave great offence to her and her steward, by putting a stop to a most severe punishment just beginning to be inflicted on a great number of them, who, intoxicated with the pleasure of a holy-day, had not returned home at the time commanded. The steward, enraged at finding his tyranny

ny restrained, applied to Mrs. Ellifon, telling her, ‘ That all order was now abolish-
‘ ed, and if Mr. Ellifon proceeded in this
‘ manner, their slaves would become their
‘ masters, and they must cultivate their
‘ lands themselves.’ Mrs. Ellifon loved
her husband too well not to pity his fail-
ings, of which she thought this the chief;
and attributed it to a total ignorance of
his affairs, with which she hoped to make
him better acquainted. Accordingly she
calmly represented to him the impropri-
ety of what he had done; anticipating all
possible consequences. Mr. Ellifon allow-
ed that some of them might happen; that
he was convinced persons so habituated to
slavery, required a different treatment than
was shewn to free servants; what differ-
ence would suffice, he had not yet been
able to determine, but he was convinced
cruelty was not necessary, and he was re-
solved he would find out some medium.

‘ As

‘ As for the idleness you suppose will arise
‘ from a relaxation of these shocking fe-
‘ verities, I protest by all that is sacred,’
continued he, ‘ that were not justice to
‘ you in question, for this estate being ori-
‘ ginally your’s, I cannot think that mar-
‘ riage deprives you of your right in it, I
‘ would give it all for the extacy I felt
‘ at seeing the joy of the poor reprieved
‘ wretches. Had you, my dear, been pre-
‘ sent when they threw themselves at my
‘ feet, embraced my knees, and lifting up
‘ their streaming eyes to heaven, prayed
‘ with inexpressible fervency to their sup-
‘ posed Gods to shower down their choi-
‘ cest blessings on me, you would have
‘ wept with me ; and have owned a de-
‘ light which nothing in this world can
‘ afford, but the relieving our fellow-crea-
‘ tures from misery ; a delight even be-
‘ yond what our weak imperfect senses
‘ can well bear, for it rises to an excess
‘ that

‘that is mixed with pain, since reflexions
‘on their unhappy state mingle them-
‘selves with our joy; but the first extacy
‘over, the pleasure becomes more ade-
‘quate to our sensations.’

‘I do not doubt,’ answered Mrs. Elli-
son, ‘but they were rejoiced to find their
‘punishment remitted, as they look upon
‘it as a permission to take the same liber-
‘ty every holy-day; and you may depend
‘upon it they will give you the like op-
‘portunity for such another scene.’

‘Very probably they may,’ replied Mr.
Ellison, ‘but if my pardon has no other
‘consequence, it will only appear as use-
‘less as your steward’s punishment; for he
‘confessed to me, that for the same of-
‘fence he had most cruelly chastised them
‘not above a fortnight ago. Whatever
‘their behaviour may be, let me enjoy
‘the pleasing sensations arising from even

‘abused mercy, rather than the stings of
‘remorse for useless cruelty.’

‘But,’ interrupted Mrs. Ellison, ‘would
‘you have their faults go uncorrect-
‘ed?’

‘By no means,’ answered Mr. Ellison,
‘but I would have the punishment bear
‘some proportion to the offence; and till
‘it does so, it cannot be effectual. These
‘poor creatures would be far our superi-
‘ors in merit, and indeed in nature, if they
‘could live without committing frequent
‘faults; if the smallest offence, as a too
‘free indulgence of innocent mirth like
‘this I have just pardoned, is punished
‘with the same severity as a malicious or
‘dishonest action, the suffering wretches
‘become desperate; they find, however
‘careful, through the weakness of human
‘nature they must sometimes err, and also
‘that by the barbarity and tyranny of
‘their

‘ their overseers they shall frequently be
‘ punished, even when they are not guil-
‘ ty; and looking upon these sufferings
‘ as a misery attending their condition,
‘ they do not endeavour to avoid what
‘ they cannot always prevent. I am de-
‘ termined henceforward to ease your stew-
‘ ard of this part of his business; the pro-
‘ duce of the land he may still attend,
‘ but those who cultivate it shall be my
‘ care; he is not fit to be trusted with
‘ any thing but what is inanimate. And
‘ that you may not think I pay too high
‘ a price for this indulgence of my com-
‘ passion, or rather this compliance with
‘ my conscience, I will endeavour to find
‘ a means of rendering our slaves obedi-
‘ ent, without violating the laws of jus-
‘ tice and humanity.’

Mrs. Ellison was mortified to find her husband incorrigible in so material an article; but recompensed herself for the fears she was under lest their fortune should

should suffer through his simplicity, by an inward exultation on reflecting, that however it might be in other families, in their's woman was certainly not the weaker vessel, since she was above those soft timorous whims which so much affected him ; had always kept her slaves in as good order as any man in the island, and never flinched at any punishment her steward thought proper to inflict upon them. However, with the generosity the strong ought to shew to the weak, she determined to push the matter no farther at that time ; but to let the man take his silly way, till experience convinced him of his folly ; and denying herself any other triumph over his imbecillity than a smile, which expressed more of contempt than complacency, she was turning the conversation to another subject, when a favourite lap-dog, seeing her approach the house, in its eagerness to meet her jumped out of the window where it was standing ; the height was too great to permit the poor

cur to give this mark of affection with impunity; they soon perceived that it had broken its leg, and was in a good deal of pain; this drew a shower of tears from Mrs. Ellison's eyes, who, turning to her husband, said, 'You will laugh at me for my weakness; but I cannot help it.'

'My dear,' replied Mr. Ellison, 'you will one day know me better than to think I can laugh at any one for a token of sensibility; to see any creature suffer is an affecting sight; and it gives me pleasure to observe you can feel for the poor little animal, whose love for you occasioned his accident; but I confess I am surprised, though agreeably, to see such marks of sensibility in a heart that I feared was hardened against the sufferings even of her fellow creatures.'

This last expression stopped the torrent of Mrs. Ellison's affliction; and indignation taking place of compassion, as she turned

turned her eyes from her lap-dog to her husband,—— ‘Sure, Mr. Ellison, you do not call negroes my fellow creatures?’

‘Indeed, my dear,’ answered Mr. Ellison, ‘I must call them so, till you can prove to me, that the distinguishing marks of humanity lie in the complexion or turn of features. When you and I are laid in the grave, our lowest black slave will be as great as we are; in the next world perhaps much greater; the present difference is merely adventitious, not natural. But we will not at present pursue this subject; the best action we can now do is to relieve the poor little sufferer; let us go into the house, and get its leg tied up; I believe I may venture to take upon myself to be its surgeon.’

This kind offer mitigated Mrs. Ellison’s resentment, at having been so disagreeably associated with people whom she esteemed

the most despicable part of the creation; and put her in better humour with her husband's compassionate nature; for though she still saw him equally weak in this particular, yet she now looked upon it as an amiable weakness. We will leave them therefore busied in their present care, equally placid, and equally attentive to the poor lap-dog.

CH A P. III.

MR. Ellison had determined, while he remained in Jamaica, to take all the advantages it offered him, and not to suffer the increase of his fortune to lead him into a neglect of trade; but his desire of mitigating the sufferings of his slaves was so great, that he resolved to withdraw his whole attention from commerce, till he had devised some means of effecting this first wish of his heart.

Humanity, when sufficiently warm and steady, seldom waits long for the power
and

and opportunity of extension. He soon formed a plan, and set about the execution of it with the utmost diligence. He erected a great number of cottages, and assigned to each family a comfortable habitation, with a little piece of ground adjoining, well stocked with vegetables, the future cultivation of which he left to themselves; at the same time providing them more plentiful and better subsistence than was usually allowed to any in their station. Two days in the week he permitted them to leave off work at an early hour in the afternoon; and promoted innocent amusements among them at those times; carefully preventing the sale of strong liquors, lest mirth should lead to drunkenness. If the weather were peculiarly sultry, he would make them retire from work in the hottest part of the day, and always took care that they were supplied with wholesome liquor to refresh them. If any were sick, he immediately had all proper relief applied; and by the encouragement he gave to such

old women as nursed them well, secured them every comfort their condition could admit.

While he was establishing these regulations, he pretended blindness to many of their faults ; but such as could not be overlooked, he permitted to be punished in a manner he thought dreadfully severe, though merciful in comparison with what was usually inflicted ; fearing some very bad consequences might otherwise happen through excess of lenity, before he had compleated his plan. But when he thought they must be sufficiently convinced of the difference between their condition and that of any other slaves in the island, he told them, he was determined to try whether they deserved good usage : when they compared their situation with that of other slaves they had reason to think themselves happy ; but yet their treatment had not been such as was agreeable to him, who did not chuse to consider them as slaves, except by ill behaviour they reduced him to the disagreeable necessity of exerting an absolute power
over

over them. ' While you perform your
' duty,' continued he, ' I shall look upon
' you as free servants, or rather like my
' children, for whose well-being I am anxi-
' ous and watchful. I have provided you
' with convenient habitations; given you a
' plentiful portion of all necessaries; as-
' signed to each a small share of peculiar
' property; taken care of you in sickness;
' and considered your ease in health; I
' have encreased your liberty; promoted
' your amusements; and much lightened
' your punishments. But still these are
' too heavy; I cannot feel myself so su-
' perior to any of my fellow creatures, as
' to have a right of correcting them severe-
' ly. I am determined therefore, for the
' future, to abolish all corporal punish-
' ments. I shall require nothing of you
' that can be properly thought a hardship;
' but if gratitude and prudence cannot
' bind you to good behaviour, the first of-
' fence shall be punished by excluding you
' from partaking of the next weekly holy-
' days;

* days; for the second fault you shall not
 * only be deprived of your diversion, but of
 * a day's food; and if these gentle correc-
 * tions do not reform you, on the third of-
 * fence you shall be sold to the first pur-
 * chaſer, however low the price offered;
 * and this ſentence is irreverſible; no pray-
 * ers, no intreaties ſhall move me. The
 * man who after ſo happy a change in his
 * condition can repeatedly offend, is not
 * worthy to be the object of my care; and
 * ſhall become the property of ſome maſ-
 * ter, whoſe chaſtiſements may keep with-
 * in the bounds of duty the actions of that
 * man, whoſe heart cannot be influenced
 * by gratitude, or his own true intereſt."

Mr. Eliſon's humanity had already gain-
 ed the affection of his ſlaves, but on this
 declaration they almoſt adored him; and
 in the ſtrongest terms promiſed him, and
 themſelves likewise, never to offend ſo
 good a maſter, in ſuch a manner as to bring
 them under the heavy ſentence he had
 pronounced

pronounced against those who persevered in disobedience. This was at that time the real sentiments of their hearts, but human frailty, and an acquired indifference to offending, from having been long subject to indiscriminate and unavoidable punishments, left scarcely the resolution of one unbroken. But the sander they were of diversion, and the more they delighted in their now plentiful board, the more sensibly they were affected by the two first punishments, and few of them were so senseless as to incur the third. The first who was so unfortunate, when he found the sentence was going to be put in execution, and that he was really set up to sale, was almost distracted; he was so enraged at his own folly, that he was with difficulty restrained from doing violence on himself. His importunate intreaties for pardon extremely distressed Mr. Ellison. To deny the poor wretch a farther trial grieved him to the soul; and yet he saw that a strict adherence to his first de-

claration was absolutely necessary; he therefore resolved to endure the conflict, though not unmoved, yet with unaltered purpose; and to shew them that in despite of his compassion, which was too great to be concealed, yet he was inflexible.

Mrs. Ellison, who met him as he returned from this unhappy wretch, was amazed at his uneasiness; 'Surely,' said she, 'you have less spirit than a sucking babe, if you can pity such an ungrateful creature; you have borne with him too long already. I hope you are sensible it is a great weakness to be so tamely forgiving, as you have already shewn yourself; it is high time he should feel your vengeance; if a slave will indulge his idleness, surely a master has a right to gratify his resentments.'

'Is it possible, my dear,' answered Mr. Ellison, 'that you can imagine I ex-
pose

' pose this wretch to the cruelty of some
 ' implacable master to gratify my resent-
 ' ment ! if I could feel the smallest emo-
 ' tion of that nature in my heart, I should
 ' detest myself. The poor criminal is
 ' more outrageous in his expressions, but
 ' I question whether he feels more than I
 ' do on this occasion. I am exerting a
 ' power meerly political, I have neither
 ' divine, nor natural right to enslave this
 ' man. This shocking subordination may
 ' be necessary in this country, but that
 ' necessity makes me hate the country.
 ' The most atrocious crime only could
 ' deserve the punishment I am inflicting;
 ' and were it not that all order depends on
 ' a superior's inviolable adherence to his
 ' own laws, I assure you the poor man
 ' should instantly be pardoned. Nor
 ' could I go through what I am doing, if
 ' I did not hope this example will have so
 ' strong an effect on those who are now
 ' deploring his fate, that it will prove the
 ' last

• last time I shall be reduced to so painful
• an exertion of power. I see by your
• smile, that you still despise me for being
• as you call it so tamely forgiving. You
• say, Surely, I must be sensible it is a
• great weakness; how can I think so,
• when I see such various proofs that the
• Being, in whom there is no weakness,
• who is all perfection, is far more for-
• giving than any of his creatures; He
• is Love and Mercy itself; can then any
• portion of the Divine Nature, that part
• of his image which he stamped on man,
• be esteemed a failing! How much more
• disobedient are the best of us to him;
• than our slaves are to us? yet he does
• not crush us with his power; he neither
• sends the lightnings to blast the offen-
• der, nor pestilence to consume a sinful
• country; he bears with us year after
• year, gives us frequent calls and admo-
• nitions to repentance, and leaves us a
• long season for amendment. He is ever
• ready

ready to forgive, and lets fall his vengeance only on those who will not ask to be forgiven; who will not even endeavour to amend. He requires only a forbearance of the evils we have before committed, and sorrow for them; he has performed the expiation for us. When we think of the fountain of Mercy, can we call forgiveness or compassion a weakness! To see it in that light, is as contrary to your real nature as to mine; the difference between us lies only in education; you have been bred in a country, where scarcity of natural inhabitants introduced slavery, which can never be established but at the expence of humanity; the master becomes a tyrant, for human nature always abuses a power which it has no right to exert; and the slave's mind being as heavily fettered as his body, he grows sordid and abject. I, on the contrary, was born in a country, that with all its faults is conspicuously

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'spicuously generous, frank, and merci-
 'ful, because it is free; no subordination
 'exists there, but what is for the benefit
 'of the lower as well as the higher ranks;
 'all live in a state of reciprocal services,
 'the great and the poor are linked in
 'compact; each side has its obligations to
 'perform; and if I make use of another
 'man's labour, it is on condition that I
 'shall pay him such a price for it, as will
 'enable him to purchase all the comforts
 'of life; and whenever he finds it eli-
 'gible to change his master, he is as free
 'as I am.

As Mrs. Ellison was not deficient in
 understanding, she saw there was some
 truth in what her husband had said; but
 it was a truth her reason could more easily
 perceive, than her heart feel, for it was
 steered by habit.

Mr. Ellison, soon after his marriage,
 had desired his father to send him over a
 proper

proper person to teach reading, writing, and accounts; leaving him at liberty as to the stipend, only desiring the man might be sober and virtuous. As soon as this person arrived, he gave him a neat house, and established him schoolmaster, sending all the children of his Negroe slaves to be under his tuition. He caused them to be instructed in the principles of the christian religion, hoping thereby to civilize their manners, and rectify their dispositions. He performed this office himself, to those more advanced in years, believing instruction would come with more authority and persuasion from him, as they respected him as their master, and loved him for the happiness they enjoyed in his service: and certainly such doctrine can scarcely fail of proving persuasive, when the preacher's actions are so eminently conformable to his precepts. In the familiarity of discourse, he rendered all things necessary to be known so intelligible, that the dullest mind comprehended

tended his instructions, and they were all convinced that must be right which produced such a life as his.

By plentiful food, and a comfortable life, Mr. Ellison's negroes became stronger than any in the island; the natural strength of those who belonged to other masters, being consumed by hardships and hunger. His were, therefore, able with ease, to do so much more work, that he might have diminished their number, if compassion had not prevented him. To keep them in sufficient employ, he made such improvements, both as to the beauty and profit of his estate, as were little thought of by others; at the same time, that he was careful to give his slaves as much ease and amusement as they could enjoy, without being corrupted by the indulgence; sensible that the greater their happiness, the more they would fear incurring his punishments. He animated them in their duty by proper com-

commendations and rewards, and proportioned his encouragements with exact justness to their deserts. He had the satisfaction of seeing his conduct succeed to his utmost wish. Negroes are naturally faithful and affectionate, though on great provocation, their resentment is unbounded, and they will indulge their revenge though to their own certain destruction. Mr. Ellison gave them no opportunity of feeling this fatal passion, and he had not a slave who would not have joyfully sacrificed his life for him. Their superstition inclined them to think him a Deity, rather than a man; and in nothing did he find them less docile, than when he endeavoured to turn their love and adoration of him to his and their Maker. It was difficult to persuade them to look on him as only an instrument in the hands of their merciful Creator, employed by him for their good; and of consequence their gratitude and love ought to be paid to that

that power, which gave their master the opportunity and inclination to concur with the views of their General Parent, and make them happy. He shewed them plainly that he was but God's steward; that without his blessing, the sower soweth but in vain; that the clouds must drop fatness, or the earth will not be fruitful; and if the sun did not ripen their fruits, all the art of man could not prevent universal famine and destruction: That all the worldly prosperity he enjoyed, all the good dispositions which led him to impart the blessings he received, came from above, and to the Power who had given them, it was their duty to render their thanks. All this he frequently urged, but still their affections could not be weaned from their visible benefactor.

Above a year passed away without his being obliged to sell another slave; which gave him hopes he should never again be exposed to so painful an exertion
of

of his power. And the poor wretch, whose example had had so good an effect on his companions, had all that time suffered the usual severities under a harsh master; which were greatly heightened by comparisons between his present and late condition, and by reflexions on his folly in exposing himself to so dreadful a change. His self-reproaches made him doubly wretched; and as he lived in a plantation adjacent to Mr. Ellison's, he was a constant object of compassion to his former companions, who frequently lamented his fate, and represented his distress with such pathetic simplicity, as touched Mr. Ellison's compassionate heart to so great a degree, that he resolved to re-purchase him at any price. This he effected on more reasonable terms than he hoped, for the poor fellow's dejection of spirits was such, that it undermined his health, and rendered him so weak, that his master was very glad to get the price he had given for him. When he was

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acquainted with his being again become Mr. Ellison's property, his joy was near proving fatal; the sense of that gentleman's goodness, and his fortunate restoration to happiness, entirely overpowered his spirits; but when he recovered his speech, his thanks were poured forth in such unintelligible extacy, as was far more affecting than the most sublime eloquence. A holyday was given to all the slaves to welcome his return, and never was the restoration of a monarch celebrated with so much heart-felt, disinterested joy.

But although the gratitude and assiduity of this poor fellow's future behaviour greatly rewarded him master, yet it produced a disagreeable event; another slave was encouraged by it to flatter himself that Mr. Ellison would never again exercise the same severity, since it had proved so painful to him; but above all, not on one who was particularly intelligent and useful, as this slave knew himself to be.

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On this supposition, he determined to become more the master of his own actions, and extending his offence to a third time, was dreadfully surprized to find himself, notwithstanding his most earnest intreaties, doomed to be sold. It was with difficulty he prevailed with his fellow slaves to interceed for him; they blamed his ingratitude so much, that they almost thought he deserved his punishment; but when good nature got the better of judgment, and they joined their intreaties to his, Mr. Ellison assured them, all intercession was vain.

The day was appointed for the sale of the offender; but before it arrived, he was seized with a violent fever, and the terrors of his mind, at the thought of the execution of the sentence he had incurred, increased his malady so much as rendered it improbable he should recover, and made him desirous not to do so. Preferring death to slavery under another master, he

he refused to take the remedies prescribed, and earnestly begged they would suffer him to die. Mr. Ellison thought his condition would sufficiently excuse the reversing of his sentence; and rather than put his life to farther hazard, pronounced a pardon for his past offence; but declared, that if he again was guilty of the like, nothing should procure his forgiveness. The poor man now became as anxious to preserve, as he had been before desirous of losing his life; gave repeated assurances of never being ungrateful for the mercy shewn him, and lavish in professions of future obedience; which the event proved to be the real dictates of a settled purpose, not of a sudden emotion. His mind being at ease, his strength was superior to the violence of his disorder; he recovered from his fever and his perverseness together; carefully avoiding, from that time, all possibility of incurring the punishment from which he had so happily escaped.

Mr.

Mr. Ellison thought himself not less fortunate in having had so good an excuse to pardon the offender, and was never after put to the same painful trial. The superstitious vulgar look upon the third as a fatal number; but these slaves had great reason to think it so, and carefully avoided it; which was not very difficult; for as Mr. Ellison saw the services of his slaves in the same light as those of free servants, he did not expect them to be exempt from faults; and for such slight offences as in England he would have thought deserved only reproof, he inflicted no other punishment; not using the power received from the custom of the country, but in relation to more material offences.

C H A P. IV.

HAVING collected in one view such particulars as may serve to give the reader a proper idea of Mr. Ellifon's manner of treating his slaves, it is time to say something of affairs still more domestic.

Mrs. Ellifon, before the expiration of the first year of their marriage, produced him a very fine boy. Her fortune enabled him to extend his trade; and his success therein always answered his wishes; though his increase of wealth did not bear the same proportion to the capital with which he traded, as it had done before he married. The like frugality was no longer necessary, nor indeed would it have been excusable. He now might safely indulge his benevolent and charitable disposition; therefore, it was his duty to do so; and he thought his wife had a right to partake in the enjoyment of the income she brought

brought him; however, he saw his wealth encrease full as much as he desired. Thus far we have looked at the fair side of his affairs; but he was not free from vexations; happily he was reasonable enough to think he had no right to be so, for that the most fortunate man must expect his share of pain and trouble, which we can no way so well alleviate, as by patient submission to this indispensable consequence of humanity.

Mrs. Ellison, as I have already hinted, was a good sort of woman; but many good sort of people, according to the common use of the phrase, make bad companions in intimate society. She was so very fond of her husband, that she was miserable if he was out of her sight. If, when abroad on business, he did not return just at the hour she expected, he found her in agonies, lest some misfortune had befallen him; and with floods of tears, she reproached with him insensibility of

the pain she suffered, from his want of punctuality; sobbing out that, 'poor dear Mr. Tomkins' (her first husband) 'would not have used her so; he would rather have left any business unfinished, than have given her such terrors.' If he expressed an inclination to spend an evening with a friend, she was inconsolable, lamented his indifference, 'he was all the world to her, but she too plainly saw he wished to be any where, rather than at home; poor dear Mr. Tomkins never was so happy as in her company; but her lot was now sadly changed.' If he paid the common attentions which politeness required to any other woman, she was fired with jealousy, 'men were ungrateful, inconstant creatures; a good wife was sure to be neglected, for every flippant girl; poor dear Mr. Tomkins, had no eyes but for her; but handsome men, truly, must be admired; the love of one woman would not satisfy their vanity.' When any generous action of his

his reached her ears, which could not but happen frequently, she would most pathetically lament that, 'notwithstanding the fine fortune she brought, her dear boy would be a beggar;' and most eloquently would she preach against extravagance.

A moderate portion of understanding suffices to discover the weaknesses even of people who are wiser than ourselves; and a little cunning is sufficient to enable us to take advantage of the discovery; for cunning attains its little ends more surely than wisdom; like the despicable mole which works its way through the greatest mountains, while the noble lion cannot penetrate one foot deep into the earth. On some creatures nature has bestowed strength, courage, and wisdom, on others fangs and claws; among these I rank the cunning of our own species, who seldom fail of biting and scratching out their way by means so low and despicable, that the

nobler part of mankind, neither see nor suspect their aim. Had Mrs. Ellison openly shewn an intention of enslaving her husband, she would have found him better acquainted with the relative duties of matrimony, than to have submitted to a disgraceful and unnatural yoke. But on their first marriage, she restrained only with silken threads; the fetters were forged by degrees. By the little endearments of excessive fondness, she would bring him to compliance, when he raised objections from convenience, or politeness; and unwilling to appear insensible to so much tenderness, he would sometimes delay business, and break appointments. Every compliance of this sort rendered her applications more frequent, and if he shewed much reluctance, plaintive, affectionate reproaches of want of love, strengthened the request. Every conquest more fully convinced her of his weakness; she perceived that his greatest fear was to give pain; that he could not bear without
4 severe

severe pangs to be the cause of uneasiness to any person; but above all, to one who was rendered susceptible of it, chiefly by her love for him. Against this, therefore, as the most pregnable part of the fortress, she erected her battery of sighs, tears, caresses, and reproaches, which she played off with great art, and equal success. She became however, so lavish in the use of them, that Mr. Ellison at length saw reason to suspect there was more of policy than love in her behaviour; but before he conceived this suspicion, she had brought him to a habit of compliance, which he could not shake off without a stronger effort, than the gentleness of his nature would suffer him to exert. He was naturally passionate, his emotions were quick and violent, but soon over; a perfect knowledge of this failing in his temper, kept him so much on his guard, that it seldom broke out, and the fear of not being able to restrain his anger within proper bounds, if he indulged the small-

est expression of it, made him pretend blindness to many things which he would otherwise have reproved; lest warmth of temper might lead him to say more than he thought right. This laudable delicacy assisted Mrs. Ellison's views; he bore much perverseness from the fear of becoming in the wrong, if he gave himself liberty to repent; and if at any time she had (what she soon learnt to esteem) the good fortune to teize him past his patience, she was sure of carrying every point for some time after; for the concern he felt, at having broken into angry expressions, against the woman whose affection had led her generously to put herself and so large a fortune into his power, (for in this light he saw her marrying him) and who therefore had a just title to his gratitude, as well as his protection, made him seek every means of making reparation for what he thought injurious treatment; though every other person would have considered it only as a necessary exertion of

of spirit, and must have wondered at his patience in not carrying his resentment farther. Mrs. Ellison was so sensible of the advantages these sudden sallies gave her, that whenever she had a point to carry, which she knew was extremely contrary to his inclination, she would contrive to teize him beyond the power of human patience to support without resentment, herself preserving such an air of calmness and moderation as well becomes her sex.

By these arts she soon made her husband that slave which he would suffer no one to be to him. Her power indeed was not sufficiently absolute to force him to the omission of any thing he thought a duty. Not even her tears, or most tender intreaties, could prevail with him to neglect any office of humanity; he was conscious that he should be very culpable, if he suffered his weakness to interfere with the good of others, though sacrificing his pleasures was, at least, an innocent folly.

Even any material article of his business she could not make him omit; but the company of his friends, and amusements he was fond of, he relinquished; and thus varnished over his weak compliances.

‘ Affection may operate variously in different minds. A desire to make happy, to promote every thing that can benefit, or even amuse, the beloved object appears to me the natural result of Love; but possibly in persons whose minds are contracted by bad education, and corrupted by the exertion of an absolute power, which cannot justly belong to any mortal Being, Love may assume a tyrannic air; and from a long habit of self-gratification, a person may be brought to seek less the happiness of the beloved, than her own indulgence. The source is amiable, though the spring is contaminated; and it would be cruel to make a woman suffer for her affection, because Education has perverted her understanding, or in some degree suppressed

‘pressed the best sensations of the heart.
‘She gave an evident proof that she pre-
‘ferred me to the charms of money, for
‘she might certainly have married one of
‘the richest men in the island. Can I be
‘to blame then in making some sacrifice
‘in return?’

But if Mr. Ellison stood justified to himself, his friends passed a less favourable sentence. They found themselves deprived of the most agreeable society the place afforded, and were not a little angry with the occasion of it. Some seriously, and sensibly, advised him to free himself from his bondage: others laughed at him for his pusillanimity. A secret consciousness that the advice was good, and the ridicule just, made him receive both with great good humour, but they were equally ineffectual; he eluded them in the best manner he could, telling the first, that
‘to throw off the restraint would give
‘him more trouble than he found in sub-
D 5 ‘mitting.

‘mitting to it;’ and to the jesters he only said, that ‘they must not wonder if his long application to merchandize had taught him to see every thing in the light of traffic; and his wife had bought him at so great a price, that he thought she had a right to make the best of the purchase.’ Her power over him could not be a secret, but he had pride enough to wish to conceal the uneasiness it gave him.

None of his acquaintance were so severe upon him as Mr. Reynolds, a near neighbour, who, sensible of Mr. Ellison’s superiority of understanding, found no small gratification to his mortified vanity, in seeing him brought nearer a level by this great weakness. If Mr. Ellison had conceived any resentment of the many sarcasms thrown out by this gentleman, he would have had his revenge from Miss Reynolds, a lively, sensible girl, who was one day particularly piqued at her brother’s telling Mr. Ellison that he had
fallen

fallen into strange errors of conduct, for women and negroes were made to be slaves. And Mr. Reynolds being, immediately after making this declaration, called out of the room on business, she cried out, 'How great my brother feels himself! and yet this mighty man, who thinks he is so lordly and so absolute, should be the greatest slave in the world, if my sister Reynolds would let me take my own way. 'I suspect, Madam,' said Mr. Ellison, 'you rate your abilities too high; by the charms of sweet persuasion, I make no doubt but you might gain entire power over one of gentle nature, but I do not think you have enough of the virago to tame such a temper as Mr. Reynolds's. 'I allow,' answered she, 'that I am not well qualified to do it by violence, but art would make the conquest easy, as I shall shew you. This absolute Monarch, who is pleased to hold our sex in such contempt, was the most abject slave imaginable to his first

‘ wife, though he is a tyrant to the pre-
‘ sent Mrs. Reynolds. You will say, what
‘ occasioned the difference of conduct?
‘ Only this, his first wife was a weak, il-
‘ literate, low-bred woman; this has an
‘ understanding superior to his, education
‘ has improved, and good breeding re-
‘ fined it.’

‘ You account oddly, Madam, for his
‘ different treatment of his two wives,’
interrupted Mr. Ellison, ‘ I should suppose
‘ the fact would be just the reverse.’

‘ I find then,’ said Miss Reynolds, ‘ you
‘ know your own sex less than I do. My
‘ brother’s conduct is not unusual. See-
‘ ing his first wife inferior to him in un-
‘ derstanding, he would not so far affront
‘ himself, as to believe she could attempt
‘ to govern so wise a Being, one of the
‘ Lords of the Creation; he therefore
‘ was not on his guard against her. In
‘ her, as it commonly is in people of weak
‘ minds,

‘ minds, the want of sense was amply
‘ supplied by cunning, of which she made
‘ such full use, that she gained an absolute
‘ ascendancy over him ; while he, easy in
‘ fancied security, never perceived she
‘ governed, because he was convinced she
‘ had no title to do so. But after her
‘ death, he began to suspect, from the
‘ ease and freedom he felt, that he had for
‘ some time been under no small restraint ;
‘ and falling in love with his present
‘ wife, whose beauty was sufficiently
‘ powerful to determine him to marry her
‘ in spite of her excellent understanding,
‘ which he looked upon as a very alarming
‘ circumstance, he immediately resolved
‘ to be very watchful in the preservation
‘ of his sovereignty ; for if so weak a wo-
‘ man as his first wife could endeavour to
‘ govern him, what strong attempts might
‘ he not expect from one so uncommonly
‘ sensible ! Thus he reasoned ; how justly
‘ the event has shewn. In pursuance of
‘ this resolution, from the day he married
‘ her,

her, he has constantly opposed every inclination she has expressed, although it has frequently been agreeable to his own, fearing lest a seeming compliance should encourage an attempt to enslave him. As a handsome woman he is fond of her, but as a sensible one he envies her; and when he most admires her beauty, he is jealous of her understanding. He is ever caressing, and ever endeavouring to mortify her, by pretending a contempt for her judgment, which he flatters himself will give her a low opinion of it. She perceives his motive, and from a real superiority of sense, neither resents nor despises his weakness; wise enough to feel her own failings, she cannot contemn those of others; and as she is above any great desire for trifling gratifications, she has not the least wish for an influence, which generally makes the wife as ridiculous as the husband; even where she has a choice, she knows the object is not worth a contest; and being
free

‘ free from the obstinacy of fools, she
 ‘ does not wish for a government she is
 ‘ disqualified for obtaining, by being def-
 ‘ titute of their cunning. All the means
 ‘ she takes towards her own ease, is to
 ‘ forbear as much as possible expressing
 ‘ her choice, that she may have a chance
 ‘ for seeing the thing she chuses done.’

‘ I am not quite so passive; for some-
 ‘ times, more to shew her how she might
 ‘ disappoint his great aim, by the very
 ‘ means he uses to attain it, than for any
 ‘ material purpose, when I know she has
 ‘ any wish, I tell him before her, that she
 ‘ is desirous of the very contrary; which,
 ‘ by his rule of opposition, never fails of
 ‘ producing the end I had in view; and
 ‘ if she would suffer me, I could by this
 ‘ method make every thing go according
 ‘ to her inclination; but her mind is too
 ‘ noble to submit to the use of artifice;
 ‘ and she had rather have every wish op-
 ‘ posed than obtain the gratification of it.
 ‘ by

‘ by deceit. I was informed that last
‘ winter he designed spending with his fa-
‘ mily three months at Kingstown; I knew
‘ my sister was very unwilling to leave
‘ the country; I therefore asked him to
‘ gratify us by passing some of the dead
‘ months in that town; strengthening my
‘ request, by assuring him my sister was
‘ very desirous of it. My success answer-
‘ ed my expectations, he refused me; and
‘ by repeating the petition from time to
‘ time, as I judged necessary, I kept him
‘ here the whole winter. Nor have I ever
‘ yet been disappointed in this method,
‘ Were he more reasonable, I should
‘ hope, with the experience he has had
‘ of the truth of the fact, to convince him
‘ that his wife’s good sense is his best se-
‘ curity against his being governed, and
‘ that he might without endangering his
‘ sovereignty treat her with the indulgence
‘ due to a rational and virtuous Being;
‘ but it is scarcely possible to persuade one
‘ of

‘ of his turn of mind that power is preserved, if it is not exercised in tyranny.’

This account of Mr. Reynolds’s absurdity might have afforded some gratification to many men in Mr. Ellison’s situation, but as he bore no resentment, he felt only concern on the occasion; from thinking that Mrs. Reynolds, while her husband was so perversely actuated by his groundless apprehension, could not be so happy as she deserved. His humanity never rested in inactive compassion, he always attempted to alleviate the uneasiness he pitied; if success did not crown his endeavours, and bring relief to the suffering persons, he, however, procured to himself for some time the pleasure of hoping to do good, and in the end the happy consciousness of having done all that lay in his power to serve them. Instead therefore of drawing comparisons between his own weakness and Mr. Reynolds’s folly, which must have set his own conduct in a favourable light, he immediately conceived

ceived a design of conquering, or at least moderating this whim of Mr. Reynolds's; and told his sister his resolution, who rather wished than hoped for his success. It may seem much easier to form this design than to discover the means of executing it. Reason is but an hopeless instrument with which to attack prejudice and obstinacy; and the weakest understandings are least susceptible of conviction, as walls of mud bear the battering by cannon with less damage than those of brick or stone; by making little resistance they suffer the ball to pass easily through, but it leaves a breach no wider than is requisite for its passage; a little mud repairs it instantly; thus by calling a little fresh folly to their aid, simple people efface the small impression reason and argument have made on their understandings. The method that occurred to Mr. Ellison as the most proper for effecting his purpose, as well as the execution of it, must have their place in the ensuing chapter.

C H A P.

C H A P. V.

MR. Ellison was sufficiently acquainted with Mrs. Reynolds to know, that far from harbouring a desire of controlling her husband's inclinations, with which her own generally coincided, she only wished he would act in pursuance of what was really such, and not relinquish his own pleasure, in order to mortify her, when he perceived her choice was the same with his, as her natural openness of temper rendered it impossible for her to conceal the concurrence of her inclinations; though long experience had taught her that he would forego his strongest desire rather than leave her a possibility of thinking he had shewn any compliance with her's.

As nothing operated so strongly on his mind as the fear of being governed, Mr. Ellison thought the most likely way of succeeding,

ceeding, was to shew him that the effects of that apprehension, lay him open to the very thing he most wished to avoid. Miss Reynolds might have been very useful towards the execution of his plan, but he did not chuse to have her concerned in it, lest it might give her brother offence. Mrs. Ellison therefore was the properest assistant; she was very intimate in the family, and had been sufficiently piqued by some of Mr. Reynolds's jests on the tyranic exertion of her power, to enter very warmly into any scheme that might tend to his mortification, or his wife's happiness. Little contrivance was requisite, as Miss Reynolds had shewn the surest method; the Ellisons had only to consider on the best means of making him, from the spirit of opposition, act for a month or two in direct contradiction to his own inclinations.

In pursuance of this scheme, they united more intimately than ever into society with

with Mr. Reynolds's family ; carefully observed each desire as it arose in his mind, and discovered his greatest dislikes. They then took every opportunity of proposing to him to do the thing they knew he secretly wished, as an action that would oblige Mrs. Reynolds, she being always present ; for he would have had no objection to pleasing her, could he have been sure of keeping her ignorant that he knew he should do so. He had now a double motive for refusing every thing they proposed, as he thereby thought he shewed both to his wife, and Mr. Ellison, his manly tenaciousness of the husband's prerogative ; and so eager was he to take every opportunity of asserting it, that for about two months, they, by this means, drove him into a regular and constant course of opposition to his own inclinations. Such a series of actions, the most disagreeable to himself, would have tired a man less obstinate out of the principle which occasioned

casioned it, but he found consolation in the consciousness of having preserved the dignity of man, and the sovereignty of husband. Mr. Ellison had minuted down every occasion wherein they had thus played on his reigning foible, and at the expiration of two months, gravely remonstrated on the perverseness of his temper, and the absurdity of his conduct; and then urging that he thereby gave a wife more certain means of governing him than she could otherwise obtain, produced as a proof of it the paper, where he had put down every time, that, taking advantage of his spirit of contradiction, he and Mrs. Ellison had led him into doing the things most disagreeable to himself, and mortifying every inclination, rather than complying with what he thought agreeable to Mrs. Reynolds. It was easy to shew him, that if his wife would take the same method they had pursued, he must be her tool;

and if she did not, it plainly proved that she had no desire to govern him.

Mr. Ellison then proceeded to observe how superior Mrs. Reynolds was to all those little mean views, that lead a woman to wish for a power to which she must be conscious she has no right, and cannot assume without acting out of character, and rendering herself ridiculous : congratulating him on having found a woman whose true and solid good understanding secured him from the object of all his fears ; but observing, that he ought to feel some apprehensions, lest his absurd behaviour might excite her contempt ; for folly accompanied with ill nature can have little title to excuse even from those who would love, while they compassionate weaknesses that arose from goodness of heart.

Mr. Reynolds could not be insensible to such glaring proofs of his folly ; he
saw

saw the consequences Mr. Ellison deduced from his principle of action, and saw it with distress; exclaiming, 'Is there then no defence against female encroachments? how are we to preserve the power nature designed us, if in spite of all our endeavours, a way may still be found out to govern us?' 'The case is not so desperate,' answered Mr. Ellison, 'as you imagine: your danger lies only in your fear; I have shewn you that you thereby give your wife arms against yourself. Banish these apprehensions. Where virtue and religion place no bars, let your inclination be your guide; admit no motive but the desire of doing what is best and most essential to your happiness; and learn, that to oblige is as much an exertion of your power, as to mortify, and far more rational, as well as amiable. The conferrer of an obligation stands in a superior light to the receiver of it; let that superiority

' superiority content you, for it is the great-
 ' est we can have. That which you may
 ' imagine your sex gives, is lost by shew-
 ' ing a weakness of mind that degrades
 ' you; when you appear to act from noble
 ' principles, then you shew man in his true
 ' dignity, and will be respected and obey-
 ' ed with pleasure, by a woman who has
 ' sense enough to discern your merit. A
 ' wife may be obedient to your caprices,
 ' but she will all the time feel herself your
 ' superior; her submission is such as might
 ' be expected from a man enslaved by a
 ' race of monkeys, if we can imagine a
 ' country ruled by those animals; he would
 ' be passive from a sense of their power,
 ' but despise them for the capricious man-
 ' ner wherein they exercised it. The man
 ' who has the good fortune to be married
 ' to a woman of sense and education, has
 ' only to make himself beloved and re-
 ' spected by her, and then he is sure of
 ' being obeyed with pleasure. The arts
 ' of a woman who has more cunning than
 ' sense, with whom we comply out of
 Vol. I. E ' good-

‘good-nature, because we cannot by reason convince her, is what a husband has most cause to fear; for such are the governing wives.’

Mr. Reynolds’s prejudices were too deeply rooted to disappear on the first conviction; and after he determined on a change of conduct, old suspicions would recur, and have their usual influence. But Mr. Ellison did not leave his work unfinished; and after a long and close attention to his temper, he had the satisfaction of seeing him live in a state of easy confidence with his wife, and making her happy, at the same time that he rendered himself so. She knew to whom she owed this fortunate change in her situation; but the same delicacy which had prevented her from ever complaining of her husband’s former treatment, now made her silent on the obligations which filled her heart with gratitude: but Miss Reynolds was less reserved; acknowledged the benefit received in the warmest terms; and would have thought

thought herself peculiarly fortunate to have had the means of procuring for Mr. Ellison the same degree of happiness that he had given them.

But this was not within the reach of her power. Mr. Ellison's vexations increased with the age of his little boy : he was equally the darling of both his parents, but they differed much in their opinions as to the proofs of that affection. The child was naturally of a passionate and stubborn temper ; which his father saw with concern, and thought it his duty to keep him within reasonable controul ; and if possible to conquer faults, which, when strengthened by time and habit, must prove incorrigible. Mrs. Ellison, on the contrary, called his passion spirit, and his stubbornness constancy and steadiness, and could not bear he should receive the least contradiction. She was continually puffing him up with the notion of his consequence ; representing all the people about him as his slaves ; and

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making

making them seek to please him by the most abject means. She taught him to look on them in the same light as she herself did, as creatures destitute of all natural rights, of sense, and feeling. She was pleased to see him vent his childish passions upon them, and was always ready to gratify his resentments beyond his wish; and so successful were her endeavours, that by the time he arrived at the age of five years, he was a little fury, bursting with pride, passion, insolence, and obstinacy. Not that Mr. Ellison had tamely submitted to her corrupting the mind of a child he doated on: From a gratitude he thought due to her, from an excess of good-nature, that rendered it irksome to him to be the author even of a momentary pain, and from a love of peace, which made him think contention a greater evil than obedience, he had suffered her to gain an influence over him, which, though his reason disapproved, yet his conscience acquiesced in, as it was no moral evil; but when his child's present and future happiness were in question, the case was altered; he considered
it

it as a being intrusted to his care, for whose temporal and eternal welfare he was answerable, as far as education and paternal authority could affect it. He endeavoured to teach her the duty of a parent, and to convince her that her indulgence rendered her the child's most pernicious enemy ; but having never reasoned in her life, the faculty was too feeble to enter into the force of his arguments ; she was too perverse to attend, and too weak to be convinced.

He then assumed an air to which she had hitherto been a stranger, and told her, ' Though he had sacrificed his own inclinations to her, she must not expect to find the same easiness in him when the welfare of his son was at stake ;' and in the most resolute manner declared he would not suffer him to be made a brute. Tears were now called to her aid ; she wept for his cruelty ; lamented the hatred he bore both to her and her child, and to the latter only because it was her's, for the poor babe was too young to have offended him ; called him unnatural father,

and cruel husband; and poor dear Mr. Tomkins became again the object of her grief and regret. But all these arts proved now unavailing; Mr. Ellifson's heart was too deeply engaged in the importance of the cause of their contention, to be moved by any thing she could say; and he kept so firmly to his point, that she began to think it advisable to calm him by a seeming compliance. In his presence therefore she moderated her indulgence, silently acquiesced in the reproofs the boy frequently received from him, and pretended to approve the sentiments he endeavoured to instill into his infant mind. But this seeming submission was productive of as great evils as her indulgence. In Mr. Ellifson's absence, which business rendered very frequent, she tried to make the child amends for his father's cruelty, as she termed his care, by a double portion of indulgence, and treated his advice as a jest; inculcating principles which, as they better suited the child's natural disposition, made a far deeper impression. But lest she or her dear darling should incur
Mr.

Mr. Ellifon's anger, she taught the boy to conceal his thoughts and inclinations, and to assume such a manner in his father's presence, as for a little time gave that affectionate parent great pleasure; but it was not long before he found, that to his other faults, his son had now added a degree of deceit and hypocrisy, beyond what he imagined possible at so early an age; and that while he loved his mother for laying the foundation of his future misery, he beheld him only as an object of terror and hatred. To be superiorly beloved, was so great a gratification to Mrs. Ellifon's narrow and ungenerous mind, that she rejoiced in every symptom of his dislike to his father; though beloved by her as much as is consistent with such selfish principles as hers.

When Mr. Ellifon found, that all the care he could take towards rectifying his son's temper, was only made the occasion of introducing more evil into his disposition, he determined, as the last resource, to send him into England with a friend who was

going thither; and there to have him placed at a school, under the eye of his grandfather, who he knew would watch over him with the most affectionate attention. He was sensible that morals are but very imperfectly taught at schools, and that he could not hope the faults in his disposition would be entirely conquered there; but the violence of his temper must meet with restraint, and his pride with mortification; his faults would no longer be strengthened by encouragement, nor in a manner sanctified by example; and he might find it necessary to his ease, to conquer passions which he durst not indulge. To execute this resolution was a most painful task. Mrs. Ellison, at first, absolutely refused consenting to it; and to force on her the grief of parting with her son, who was then but six years old, gave him more poignant affliction than her heart was capable of feeling for any misfortune whatsoever.

To remove her objections, he therefore proposed their following the child into England, as soon as they could settle their affairs

affairs in such a manner, as might enable them to bid a long adieu to Jamaica, without great detriment; but this administered little consolation to Mrs. Ellison, as she had conceived a dislike to England, which even her son's being there could not conquer; but forbearing to declare this, imagining it would make her fondness for the child appear less than she chose it should be thought, Mr. Ellison, after sending away his boy, was very assiduous in hastening the means of their leaving the island; supposing he therein gratified his wife as much as himself.

The most difficult part of his business was to get a steward who would treat his slaves with the same gentleness to which he had accustomed them; and he had nearly settled his commercial affairs, before he saw any probability of finding a person fit for that important office. The first rumour of his intended departure, caused the utmost consternation among these poor creatures; they gathered round him, and falling on their knees, in their imperfect

English, cried out, ‘ Oh ! master, no go, ‘ no go ; if go, steward whip, beat, kill ‘ poor slave ; no go, no go ; you go we ‘ die.’ Nor could the kindest assurances, of not leaving them, but under the care of one who would treat them with the same lenity, pacify their fears. He assured them, that he looked upon them all as his children, and promised no one should supply his place, that did not consider himself as their father. Instead of being satisfied with this promise, they exclaimed, ‘ all fathers not good ; no father ‘ like you,’ and such torrents of tears would accompany their words, as frequently staggered his resolution. Notwithstanding the most affectionate assurances he could give them, melancholy constantly sat on their, before happy, countenances ; at their holyday meetings, instead of indulging the jollity of which they used to be so fond, their hours were passed in lamenting their approaching misfortune, and laughter was now exchanged for tears. Mr. Ellison, at length, in some measure prevailed upon them not to anticipate

cipate an event which might never happen; and indeed he had reason to fear it would not; for he saw no prospect of finding such a steward, as would enable him to justify to his conscience the leaving a place, where the happiness of so many depended upon him.

C H A P. VI.

BUsiness having called Mr. Ellison to Port-Royal, he there heard lamented the misfortunes of an English gentleman, who had been established there above two years as a merchant in good credit; his capital not being great, his trade was not very extensive, for he never could be prevailed upon to make that use he might of the good opinion which, from his excellent conduct, every one had conceived of him. To all who would have advanced him money on credit, he replied, that, 'if he could depend on his own prudence, 'diligence, and frugality, which was rather more than a man moderately humble 'ought to do, yet he could not answer

‘ for success, as the hazards of trade were
‘ great, and the losses attending it some-
‘ times inevitable. While he ventured
‘ only his own fortune, he could behold
‘ those dangers with tranquillity; but if
‘ the property of his friends was involved,
‘ the thought would be accompanied by
‘ intolerable apprehensions.’ This gen-
tleman was not more unwilling to receive
assistance, than he was desirous of assisting
others. A friend and countryman of his,
who had a wife and large family, impart-
ed to him his distress at finding his affairs
in so desperate a situation, that he had no
hopes of avoiding bankruptcy; a confi-
dence he made him without any view of
farther relief, than the compassion and
advice of an humane and sensible friend.
Mr. Hammond (for that was the name of
the unfortunate gentleman who then was
the subject of conversation in Port-Royal)
had just received a thousand pounds in
return for some commodities he had ex-
ported, and this sum he insisted on his
unsuccessful friend’s taking for a time, in
hopes it might enable him to save his cre-
dit,

dit, and carry on his trade till affairs took a more favourable turn. By this well-timed loan, the poor man and his family were saved from destruction; but losses by shipwreck, and other accidents, having successively fallen on Mr. Hammond, he saw himself reduced into the situation from which he had relieved his friend; with only this difference, that his was a single distress; whereas a wife and nine children would have been sharers in the misfortunes of the other. All Mr. Hammond's effects were seized, but proved insufficient to discharge his debts. The creditors knew he had lent some money, but were ignorant as to the exact sum: this they pressed him to call in; promising, on the receipt of it, to discharge him from prison; even if it did not quite amount to what was due to them.

Mr. Hammond could not support the thought of purchasing his liberty by reducing so large a family to beggary; but as he was sensible his creditors had a just right to all his property, he offered to enter

ter into the most binding engagement to give up the sum to them as soon as his friend could refund it without ruin; and to make him pay them the established interest till that time; but, enraged at this delay, they refused to accept his offer, and declared he should remain their prisoner.

This story very much affected Mr. Ellison's compassionate heart; and in hopes of finding some method of relieving the distress of so worthy a man, he went the next day to the prison to visit him. He found him very composed, and more concerned that his creditors should suffer by him, than at his own confinement; but yet he thought, after their refusal of the offer he had made them, he was justified in not ruining a family, who by a more successful employment of the money he had lent them, seemed in a fair way of getting free from their troubles, and being able in a few years to repay him.

Mr. Ellison undertook to do his utmost, to bring the creditors to agree to what he
had

had offered, and negotiated the affair with great assiduity, but little success. During the course of this transaction, he saw Mr. Hammond frequently, and had so many proofs of his integrity and humanity, that he became tenderly interested for him; and as the only means of delivering him out of his melancholy confinement, acquainted him with the resolution he had taken of advancing the thousand pounds lent to his friend, and becoming himself that gentleman's creditor; assuring Mr. Hammond that he should never ask for the payment, but suffer his friend to suit his own convenience in that respect. He then told Mr. Hammond, that he was sensible, though by this step he might deliver him from prison, yet he should not secure him from distress; he therefore begged leave to assist him in any course of life wherein he thought proper to engage; adding, that he could not but wish he might accept the offer he now made him, of taking upon himself the direction of his plantation and slaves, as he delayed his removal into England only till he could

could find a fit person for his steward: but insisted on Mr. Hammond's not accepting this office, if it was not agreeable to him, as he should be equally desirous of contributing, as far as lay in his power, to his success in any other plan of life better suited to his inclination.

Mr. Hammond's heart so overflowed with gratitude, that he was warm in expressing his deep sense of Mr. Ellison's generosity, and for a considerable time opposed the transfer of the debt of the thousand pounds; but when he found Mr. Ellison so firmly bent upon it, he told him that it was with great concern he refused the offered stewardship; which, however irksome to him, gratitude would induce him to accept, if he was not deterred by a consciousness of not being qualified to fulfil the duties of the office. The care of the land would give him pleasure, and he believed he might acquit himself tolerably well in it, as a deficiency in knowledge might be made up for by an assiduous desire to learn, and an honest attention

tion to the business ; but he knew himself totally unfit for the government of slaves. The severities requisite to keep them in order were such as he was not only incapable of decreeing, but even of beholding ; and for that reason had always avoided keeping more than two, and those of the most tractable dispositions of any he could meet with. He then returned his thanks to Mr. Ellison for the assistance he so liberally offered him in any other way of life, but declared he would never consent to accept it, having determined to depend on his industry for support ; sensible that no office is beneath a gentleman, if undertaken from honest necessity, and executed with justice ; and that as laziness and pride only can deprive a man of a possibility of subsistence, they alone can degrade him.

Mr. Ellison was so pleased with the reasons Mr. Hammond gave for declining his stewardship, that to suffer him to finish his answer was the utmost effort of his complaisance. He then told him how much
he

he was delighted with the sentiments he had expressed, as they confirmed him in that opinion of his disposition, which had first inspired him with the desire of leaving him his deputy when he should depart the island; that the difficulties he had been under in finding a steward, were occasioned by the fears of having his slaves ill treated, who had always been used by him more like children than servants, and had convinced him by their behaviour, that severity was not only unnecessary but hurtful. He desired Mr. Hammond, therefore, if he had no other objection to the stewardship, to go home with him, and after sufficient observation to give him his answer.

Mr. Hammond readily acquiesced. When he saw Mr. Ellison's conduct to his slaves, and how great the difference thereby made between them and all others whom he had seen in that condition; how much less abject their way of thinking; how chearful and assiduous they were in performing their duty; the quickness of their apprehension; and in many, the nobleness

nobleness of mind, and rectitude of principle, which kind encouragement and fatherly instruction had given them, in comparison of those who are stupified by ill usage and oppression; he no longer beheld the office he was invited to accept in a formidable light.

Mr. Ellison now saw the liberty of departing from Jamaica approach; he had little left him to do, but to instate Mr. Hammond in his office, that by seeing in what manner he executed it, he might be better justified in depending upon him; and likewise so far reconcile his slaves to their new master, that they might patiently see him depart. His mercantile affairs were the more easily settled by his brother's arrival in the island. As soon as he had determined on his return to England, he wrote to his father to send over his brother James, who had been likewise bred to merchandize, as it would be in his power to settle him very advantageously; and to establish him immediately in an extensive trade, by making
over

over his correspondents to him. He found the young man sensible, honest, and diligent; and well deserving the encouragement he designed to give him. Mrs. Ellison was indeed less pleased with her brother-in-law, as she feared her husband might favour him too generously. The young man was shocked to see the arbitrary power she exercised over her husband; and was surprized that a man, who in a late instance or two had behaved with so much steadiness, could bring himself to be so tamely submissive in every other particular; not immediately discerning that there was one thing his brother feared even more than his wife, the reproaches of his own conscience; and though he sacrificed most worldly things to her caprices, yet there was a Being whom he more carefully endeavoured to please than her.

Affairs were in this situation when Mrs. Ellison was seized with a fever, at that time almost epidemical. The attack was so violent, as from the first gave little hopes

hopes of recovery, and, notwithstanding the best medical assistance, she died in a few days.

Mr. Ellison was sincerely afflicted at her death; her faults he had long pitied and now forgot; while her virtues, or such as he imagined she possessed, were engraven on his memory. But his friends, while they endeavoured to console him, comforted themselves in believing, that tho' habit and gentleness of temper may teach a prisoner to hug his chains, yet when taken off, he will soon grow sensible he is relieved from a burden, and find the removal of constant constraint makes him amends for the loss of many pleasures which accompanied it. But they had not an opportunity of seeing this supposition verified, as Mr. Ellison did not stay long enough in the island after his wife's death, to wear off the grief he felt on the occasion. In a short time, however, he became sufficiently himself to prosecute his plan for settling every thing there to the best advantage. He found Mr. Ham-
mond

mond even exceed his hopes; he soon gained the affection of the slaves, an open, humane, and chearful countenance, giving them a prejudice in his favour, which his conduct improved into a rational confidence; and it was a great consolation to them to find, that if they must lose a master they loved, yet they should still be under the protection of one possessed of many of the same virtues, which had rendered him so dear to all his dependants. Mr. Ellifon beheld with delight the improvement the children had received in the school he had established; he saw, as their minds opened, the obstinacy so remarkable in negroes abate, and was more than ever convinced that that fault, as well as many others, was in them the consequence of ignorance, and depression of spirits. More than ever desirous of keeping the school-master who had acquitted himself so well, he raised his salary, gave him every advantage that could render his situation comfortable, and left with him a young lad of remarkable good disposition and understanding, as an assistant; but with

a secret view of qualifying him to succeed, in case the master should die, or grow weary of the charge. The school-master, at Mr. Ellison's desire, had, the second year after his arrival in the island, sent an invitation to a sister he had in England, who, from the affection she bore her brother, readily accepted it, and was by Mr. Ellison made mistress of a school of negroe girls, a charge wherein she acquitted herself extremely well. By the instructions these good people gave the children, and those Mr. Ellison imparted to such as were more advanced in years, his negroes were taught to lay aside their superstitions, and became not only sincere, but rational Christians, being much better acquainted with the fundamental principles of that religion, than people of low condition are in most Christian countries. The effect was evident in their conduct; the ferocity of their tempers, that resentful turn of mind seemingly natural to them, were so softened by religion, that it very seldom happened that any symptoms of it appeared.

Mr.

Mr. Ellison's goodness to this race was not confined to those under his own care. He made it the object of his constant endeavours to prevail with all his acquaintance to treat their negroes with humanity; but his arguments might possibly have proved ineffectual, had not the good conduct of his own slaves, their more than common industry and dispatch of business, shewed the advantages arising from it to their master. This was so obvious, it could not fail of influencing men attached to their own interest; and Mr. Ellison had the satisfaction of seeing the condition of the slaves much mended in the greatest part of the island; though a treatment equal to what they received from him was not to be expected from any, as perhaps he had not his equal in benevolence. He gave liberty to all his neighbours to send as many children as they pleased to his schools, and was happy to find they accepted the permission.

Mr. Ellison was so engrossed by these charitable offices, and the private affliction of a heart which still tenderly regretted the

the loss of a woman who he was well persuaded loved him, that he did not perceive his brother James had entered into a very tender attachment. The truth was, the youth no sooner became acquainted with Miss Reynolds, than he felt the influence of her charms; she was not insensible to the merits of her lover, and they were so well agreed before Mr. Ellison's departure, that James thought it proper to inform his brother of his inclination, and to ask his advice.

Mr. Ellison was well enough acquainted with the world to know, that in these cases, people seldom ask advice till after the resolution is taken; and the warmth with which his brother expressed himself, convinced him, however he might cloath the question in respectful terms, he in reality asked only for his concurrence, and that if, instead of approbation, he was to give him advice against the match, he should greatly disappoint him. Happily his part was easier to act than is usual on such occasions. A long acquaintance with Miss Reynolds had afforded him good opportunity

tunity to discern her merit; his brother could not have chosen a woman he so much esteemed; her fortune, though not considerable, was sufficient to be of some assistance in trade, and her prudence and œconomy were well suited to his situation. He, therefore, very sincerely gave the approbation desired, and did not clog the pleasure even with a hint that marriage might have better suited his circumstances a few years later. He carried his complaisance still farther, offering to delay his departure, which was fixed for the next week, to assist at their nuptials.

This compliment was too agreeable to the lovers to be declined. Though the younger brother had engaged Miss Reynold's tenderer affections, yet she sincerely loved the elder, and respected him even to veneration. She thought their union would commence under happy auspices, if performed in Mr. Elison's presence, and under his sanction. If this notion proceeded from some degree of superstition, the event shewed her not mistaken, though in a different manner than had entered

tered her thoughts. The marriage was celebrated at Mr. Ellison's house with great elegance, and general satisfaction. Before the bride went to church, she received from her brother-in law a present of all the jewels that belonged to his deceased wife. As the necessary attention to business would require them to spend good part of the year at Kingstown, he gave his brother a house he had there, with all his plate and linnen, and the free use of all his furniture at both houses ; imagining, that when leisure should permit, they would be glad to spend some time at his plantation, where he knew his steward would be attentive to their convenience ; and to compleat his work, he lent his brother ten thousand pounds, to be employed as long as he found convenient in traffic. To Mr. Hammond, his steward, he allowed 200l. per annum, with the liberty of living in his house, and many other privileges ; declaring him accountable to no one but himself, not even subject to the controll of his brother ; only thus far he suffered caution to extend, he desired both his sister-in-law and Mrs.

Reynolds, to acquaint him from time to time if Mr. Hammond behaved to the negroes in the manner he recommended to him, and had reason to expect.

Having thus entirely settled his affairs, he set sail for England, leaving his friends and dependents most sensibly afflicted, and sharing in their grief; though the desire of returning to his country, of seeing his father and his child, and of repairing a constitution much hurt by the heat of the climate, made the change on the whole very desirable to him. His voyage was swift and prosperous; and no dangers called off his thoughts from the pleasure he felt in anticipating, in imagination, the joys he expected from his return to his native land; but disappointment too often follows the hopes which have risen to the highest point, and when we think we are just ready to grasp our pleasures, they elude our touch, and leave us nothing but regret.

C H A P.

C H A P. VII.

MR. Ellison had in his imagination formed many delightful scenes, between himself and his father; the evening of whose days he hoped would be greatly brightened by sharing his prosperity, and by his assiduous endeavours to amuse, if he could not relieve, the infirmities of age. He thought with satisfaction that he should now have the power of making a proper return for his father's kind care of his youth, for his many fears and anxieties, by tenderly watching over his declining age; an office which Nature has given, and gratitude requires us to execute well, as a reward for what our infancy has cost our parents; thus rendering human duties reciprocal. But all these flattering hopes were put to flight on his arrival in port; a letter being delivered him there, acquainting him that his father was very dangerously ill; not from sudden sickness, but a gradual decline. Old Mr. Ellison had taken care he should receive this intimation, to prepare him for their

first meeting, and render it less shocking. This good man was swelled to so great a degree with a dropsy, the last stage of a worn-out constitution, as to be a melancholy object even to those who had none of the tender attachments to him which so powerfully influenced the mind of his son. To render the first interview less affecting, he had sent for his grandson home, in hopes that the joy of the parent would mitigate filial sorrow. Nor was he totally disappointed; Mr. Ellison could not be insensible to the pleasure of seeing his only child in health, and in appearance improved, of which the dying man gave him all the comfortable proofs he could collect. But this, though it in some measure alleviated his grief, scarcely sufficed to render it supportable. The indulgence he had given his imagination made the approaching death of his father more grievous. The good old man, on the contrary, saw it creep towards him with slow but sure pace, without any terrors; life indeed had acquired a new charm by the arrival of his excellent son; but

but not suffering his mind to dwell on the pleasures his society would afford him, he was truly thankful to Providence, for giving him, before he left the world, the greatest joy it had to bestow. The happy establishment of all his children, made him think the most desirable period for his life was now come; his mind was free from all cares for them; he was sensible, that were he to remain here much longer, every additional year of life must be accompanied with some new infirmity, or, what was still far more grievous, instead of departing full of joy and gratitude for the prosperity of his children, he might weep over their graves, or participate in some misfortunes which in the course of things might befall them. So happily circumstanced as he was, he must indeed relinquish some very real pleasures, but he firmly hoped to receive far greater in exchange; and could not regret the loss of transitory gratifications, when eternal joys offered themselves to his view.

His son was greatly affected by the calm resignation of his mind; the pati-

ence with which he supported his painful distemper; and the chearful and lively hopes of a blessed eternity, which in his eyes disarmed death of all its terrors, and made him look on his last hour with the same placidity, as on any one that preceded it; and so well supported him at the fatal instant, as to render him scarcely sensible of the pains which usually attend the separation of the soul from the body.

Mr. Ellison had less fortitude; the event, though foreseen, gave him the most poignant affliction. He blamed himself for being so immoderately affected, when he considered how happy an exchange his father had made; and while he was overwhelmed with grief for his death, the full persuasion of his father's present happiness, though it could not cure, yet softened his affliction, and together with a just sense of the duty of resignation, made him soon able to submit with patience to a loss which he ever regretted.

Mr. Ellison determined, as soon as he had settled his affairs, to fix in the country.

try. Sir William Ellifon his cousin-germain, invited him to his seat in Dorsetshire, promising to shew him several good houses, any of which were to be hired or purchased; and Mr. Ellifon was particularly inclined to fix his abode in that country, as it had been the place of his family's former residence.

He had sent over, before he left Jamaica, 45000 l. and beside the interest of that sum, he received twelve hundred pounds a year from his plantation, clear of all deductions. His health was impaired by the warmth of the country where he had acquired so good a fortune, but still more by his late afflictions; which induced his physician to prescribe travelling, not in a foreign, but in his own kingdom; and during this journey it was, that by the accident which impeded his progress, he was so hospitably received at Millenium-hall. As he has long ago on this occasion spoken for himself, I shall omit saying any thing of his visit there, as it would only be a tedious repetition; but assume my account on his departure from thence.

Mr. Ellifon and his young fellow-traveller did not leave Millenium-hall with equal regret; Lamont was extremely pleased with the visit, the novelty had amused him; but though he was not insensible to the pleasure every one not totally depraved must feel in the contemplation of so much virtue, yet it wore an air so awful to his light mind, as occasioned a restraint which in a good degree lessened his satisfaction. He felt himself more humbled than was agreeable to his natural temper; when he compared the importance those ladies were of in society with his own insignificance, his vanity was severely mortified; he could not conceal from himself, that his highest pretension was to amuse the idle company he frequented, and to assist them to throw away many hours which might be usefully spent; though, how profitable every moment might be made, had never occurred to him till he saw that society. But what rendered this comparison still more irksome to him was, that the persons who so much excelled him in reason as well as

vir-

virtue, were women, were of that weak sex, which he had hitherto considered only as play-things for men; a race somewhat superior to monkeys; formed to amuse the other sex during the continuance of youth and beauty, and after the bloom was past, to be useful drudges for their convenience. To be disabused of so favourite an error, galled him intolerably; but desirous of throwing a little dust before his own eyes as well as before those of his companion, he observed that, ' he
' should not have been so much surprized
' at what they had seen, if the ladies had
' but just commenced that way of life;
' for at a certain age, the wisest part women could take, was to retire from all
' the gaieties of the world, since they
' could no longer add to them; and he
' had often wondered at the number who
' were daily intruding themselves into parties of pleasure, when the power of
' pleasing was over, as if they emulated
' the custom at the ancient Egyptian feasts,
' and personating death's heads, were ambitious to become a Memento Mori to

‘ the younger part of the company;
‘ but by the time that excellent society
‘ had been settled at Millenium-hall, it
‘ appeared that some of them had retired
‘ while their beauty was in its full lustre,
‘ and they still qualified to engage the ad-
‘ miration of the other sex,’ continuing to
remark that, ‘ to be sure such a kind of
‘ life as they had been witnesses to, was
‘ very respectable in women, and was ar-
‘ riving at the highest excellence their sex
‘ could reach; but that such retirement
‘ would be very unfit for man, who, form-
‘ ed with more extensive capacity, deeper
‘ penetration, and more exalted courage,
‘ was designed to govern the world, to
‘ regulate the affairs of kingdoms, and
‘ penetrate into the most mysterious arts
‘ of human policy.’

Mr. Ellifon, who, like his friend, had
been revolving in his mind all he had
seen, but with far different effect, smiled
at Lamont’s self-importance, and asked
him if he thought many men capable
of the arduous tasks he had assigned them.

‘ When

' When in regard to property,' (said he)
 ' all men were in a state of equality, a
 ' superiority of parts and courage were
 ' sufficient to raise a man to power and
 ' command; but since nature's Agrarian
 ' law has been abolished by political in-
 ' stitutions, few men have a chance of
 ' filling those important offices you seem to
 ' think the property of all. Poverty is an
 ' impenetrable cloud, which will conceal
 ' the greatest merit from the rest of man-
 ' kind: rank and fortune are such steps to
 ' honour, that it is difficult for a man to
 ' climb to any height who is not possessed
 ' of them: Some degree of one, or both,
 ' is absolutely necessary to bring the
 ' brightest talents into such a light as can
 ' render them conspicuous; and the whole
 ' course of a century will scarcely produce
 ' half a dozen men of such superior abili-
 ' ties, as shall conquer the disadvantages
 ' of a small fortune, or obscure descent,
 ' and raise them to that distinguished rank,
 ' for which you seem to think us all qua-
 ' lified; and to which a great estate, or
 ' high birth, will frequently exalt those
 ' who

‘ who are as unfit for it as ourselves.
‘ What visionary ideas, therefore, have you
‘ conceived of the dignity of man! Ac-
‘ cording to you, we are to be all mo-
‘ narchs and law-givers; we are to regu-
‘ late kingdoms, though we cannot esta-
‘ blish a tolerable government in our own
‘ families; we, who busy ourselves in the
‘ most trifling occupations, are to be in-
‘ trusted with the most important affairs
‘ of state. Consider the lives of all your
‘ acquaintance, and see whether man then
‘ appears so exalted an animal, that the of-
‘ fices of benevolence are beneath his no-
‘ tice. Follow them to the gaming-table, to
‘ horse-races, to assemblies, to operas; en-
‘ quire into their views, their pursuits; and
‘ then judge how well your pride is found-
‘ ed. Believe me, Lamont, let us leave
‘ those high pretensions to the very few to
‘ whom nature has given superior talents;
‘ and let us allow, that man, as well as
‘ woman, acts in the most honourable
‘ character, by pursuing a benevolent
‘ course of life. May those who have ta-
‘ lents to benefit mankind, do it by their

‘ ta-

talents ! but let us, to whom Nature has been less lavish in that particular, benefit them by our virtues ; to which the faculties of our minds, and the goods of fortune should be subservient. Let the superiority given us appear in the superior good we do ; for while our lives are as trifling and useless as those of the other sex, we ought to be ashamed to esteem ourselves above them ; and should act more judiciously, in not laying claim to superior talents, without we make a proper use of them. In my opinion, virtue creates the best superiority ; therefore I shall not be ashamed of endeavouring to imitate the ladies who gave rise to this conversation ; and do not fear, lest by so doing, I shall degrade my sex, though I confess to fall short of them may disgrace it ; and yet I am very apprehensive that will be the case ; for, the truth is, benevolence appears with peculiar lustre in a female form, the domestic cares to which the well educated have been trained, qualifies them better for discerning and executing the offices of
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' humanity. With this consideration I may
 ' in some degree console myself when I see
 ' my own inferiority. Our sex has long aped
 ' the most trifling part of the other in its
 ' follies; we are grown dissipated, puerile,
 ' vain, and effeminate; a sad abuse of ta-
 ' lents, which I readily grant were given us
 ' for better purposes; so far I agree with
 ' you as to the dignity of man; but,
 ' however the poets may personify them,
 ' the virtues are of no sex; and shall we
 ' less esteem any of them, because they
 ' are practised by women, when we are
 ' not ashamed, as I have said, to adopt their
 ' follies! Our dignity does not depend on
 ' the situation wherein we are placed, "an
 ' honest man's the noblest work of God,"
 ' whatever be his rank or station.'

Lamont was so tired of this long lec-
 ture, that if he had not felt a secret con-
 sciousness it was just, yet he would have
 forborn starting any objections, to avoid
 giving his fellow traveller opportunity
 for adding an appendix. He found his
 late visit had left some serious impressions
 on

on his mind, and did not wish them increased, as they now and then suggested disagreeable scruples, in regard to some parts of his conduct. Acquiescence does not always imply conviction; it is sometimes used to avoid being convinced: Lamont was silent from a mixture of both these motives; and Mr. Ellison, though he wished to improve the new impressions he plainly perceived on Lamont's mind, yet was careful not to surfeit him by an over dose of advice or instruction; and therefore only threw into their discourse occasionally, and seemingly without design, such short reflexions as he thought would have most effect upon him.

Mr. Ellison, finding his health much mended by his journey, was induced to extend his tour beyond his first intention; accordingly they passed through the greatest part of Wales, taking a particular view of every place most worthy notice, glad to lengthen out their progress by amusement; and great was the pleasure they received from the stupendous beauties of
that

that country, and the hospitality and simplicity of manners so remarkable in the inhabitants. Nature there seems to reign alone, unrestrained by art, and uncorrupted by fashion; the face of the country, and the minds of the people, are equally unadorned; and the beauties of the one, and the honest frankness of the other, put all ornament out of countenance, and shew us, what we have now few opportunities of seeing, the charms of artless Nature.

Their progress ended at Sir William Ellifon's, where Lamont paid only a visit of three days, and then returned to London. Sir William received his cousin very affectionately; he had not seen him from the time he first left England, but retained a great regard for him, founded on an early acquaintance with his virtues. Though nearly related in blood, there was little resemblance in the dispositions of these two gentlemen. Sir William was a man of sense and integrity, but a humourist. He was now at fifty years old, a bachelor; for having been in his youth jilt-
ed

ed by a woman he ardently loved, who, after all preliminaries to their marriage were settled, left him for a man of larger fortune, and more gaudy appearance, he had made a vow never more to address any of the sex; and kept that vow better than is usually done by those who make it in a fit of resentful rage and disappointment. His father died soon after, and left him the possession of 3000*l.* per annum, free from any incumbrances whatsoever; the estate in good order, and the mansion-house well furnished, and above a year's income in cash. He had now nothing to desire on the side of fortune; to him who was determined on celibacy, it was extremely ample; his only disturbance was the sight of womankind; his pique was so strong and so general, that the appearance of a pinner or a petticoat was sufficient to put him out of humour. Could he have excluded all females from his family, he would probably never have stirred out of his house, that he might not have been under a necessity of having his sight offended. But the more he tried it, the more he was convinced he could

could not bring it to bear, without intolerable inconveniencies ; for that he tried it is certain. As soon as he took possession of his country-seat, he turned away every maid servant, and prevailed on men to undertake their offices ; but his bed was so awkwardly made, he could not sleep in it ; his linnen so ill washed he could not wear it ; his china was all broken in a week by the clumsy hands of those who washed it up ; his house so dirty, the sight of it made him sick ; in short, every thing was so awkwardly performed by these male chamber-maids and landresses, who in all probability being very averse to their master's error, did not acquit themselves to the best of their power, that he found himself reduced to admit the tremendous sex into the house. By degrees the sight of women grew less irksome ; but his resolution to avoid much intercourse with them continued. Having no intimacies, he had no exercise for his affections ; and according to the nature of us all, the more indifferent he was to others, the more strongly attached he

grew

grew to himself. As he loved no one, and was entirely independent, he seldom endeavoured to please any but himself; he indulged every whim, and gave way to every fancy that arose in his mind; by indulgence they grew stronger; and at length he found London, where for some years he had passed good part of his time, become disagreeable, because other people's humours interfered with his; and instead of considering it for his interest to relinquish such peculiarities as were inconsistent with society, he chose to retire from society, in order more freely to indulge them.

When settled in the country he found himself perfectly at liberty to be as odd as he pleased; and judged himself free, in proportion as he differed more widely from others; and while he was an absolute slave to his own caprice, laughed at those who sacrificed insignificant trifles to custom and the world. To philosophic freedom, founded on the government of ourselves, he was as absolute a stranger, as to the pleasures

pleasures arising from mutual compliances in amiable societies, and was his own tyrant, than which a worse cannot be found; no one can so essentially enslave us, as that which is within us; Nero or Caligula were not worse tyrants than a man's own passions. Fortunately Sir William had no vices; his self-indulgence therefore made him absurdly capricious, but not criminal. He had naturally good sense, was fond of reading, was honest, good natured; and, 'till selfishness grew upon him by giving way to every humour, was generous.

He could not give a stronger proof of regard to Mr. Ellison, than inviting him to his house, as there was some danger that his guest might put him out of his way; but he had been fond of his cousin when a boy, and notwithstanding his thoughts and attention had so long centered in himself, yet he still felt some remains of affection for him. Mr. Ellison, though well pleased with Sir William's reception and conversation, finding he laid him under some restraint, determined not to make his

his visit very long ; and, therefore, soon called upon the baronet to fulfill his promise, of shewing him the houses which were to be purchased in that county. But after seeing them all, he fixed on one almost adjoining to Sir William's, and purchased it with the estate belonging thereto, consisting of two farms of about an hundred and fifty pounds a year each. The house was a large and good old mansion, in tolerable repair ; but having stood empty near ten years, during the minority of the owner, was inwardly in very bad order, and the gardens entirely gone to ruin.

This circumstance much lessened the price, but was no disagreeable thing to Mr. Ellison ; who rather chose to lay out the place to his own taste, than to pay for what the feller might call improvements, but perhaps to him would appear deserving of no other name than alterations, and possibly those not eligible. Sir William, whose house, gardens, and grounds, were neat to a degree of preciseness, was surprised at his cousin's choice. Not a particle

ticle of dust was to be seen in the baronet's house; nor was a dead leaf allowed to litter his garden. The same neatness extended to every article; his table was elegant, though he had few companions at it, not but he was glad to see any who chose to partake of it, but from a notion that to heat the blood by good eating and drinking, while the sun was high enough to have much influence on our bodies, must be extremely pernicious, his hour of dinner approached very near the supper-time of his neighbours. For this reason he never dined abroad, nor was much troubled by company at his own house; though, as he was both liked and esteemed, his neighbours had sometimes the complaisance to pretend to dine with him, having first prepared themselves by a private dinner at home. His chariot was as elegant as his house, and drawn by six very fine bay horses, whose tails and manes took more dressing than the hair of the greatest beauty in London. His liveries were suitable to the equipage; and in every article his neatness and elegance

gance exceeded even female delicacy; though had any thing feminine been brought into a parallel with him, the disgust he would have conceived might have converted him into a sloven. Thus delicate, he might well look with horror on his cousin's purchase; the gardens were overrun with the rankest weeds; and as for the house, spiders had supplied the place of other inhabitants, and like good housewives, had hung every room with webs of their own weaving. Not once in the last ten years had the inimical brush disturbed their peaceful dwelling; the lines once spun to convey them to the ground, or from one side of the room to the other, remained unbroken for the same uses year after year, and by frequent additions were rendered so strong, that it was difficult to stand in any of the rooms, without being persuaded one was caught in a net. In short, so curious was the workmanship, that had the spinster Goddess beheld it, she might have envied Arachne a second time, and metamorphosed her a-new, into some less artful and less diligent insect. Mr. Ellison felt a

little compunction at the thought of destroying so numerous a race, who had the rights of long possession to plead. Incredible was the slaughter; thousands and ten thousands fell by the potent hand of a stout char-woman, and in a few days these usurpers were all destroyed.

As soon as this massacre was completed, Mr. Ellison took possession; having put in the common necessities for immediate use, and ordered down five negro servants he had left in London; for he brought from Jamaica as many of his domestic slaves as he was sure he could conveniently employ, six in number, three of each sex, and by marriage made three couple; nor would he give them the pain of leaving their children behind, but suffered those who had any to bring them.

Before Mr. Ellison left Sir William, the baronet advised him very kindly, not to put himself to any great expence on his new house; saying, 'As you are heir to mine, your own will in time become of no use; the gardens indeed may be laid together

“together with advantage.” Mr. Ellison thanked him for his advice, but told him he hoped he would yet provide himself with heirs more nearly related. Sir William walked off in a pet; and was so much offended by the wish, that he could just then have found in his heart to disinherit him.

C H A P. VIII.

AS the ladies at Millenium-hall still retained their place in Mr. Ellison's thoughts, he had no sooner got into his house, than he wrote Mrs. Maynard, begging her to recommend him a house-keeper, one who would manage his affairs with reasonable care and dexterity, treat his family with good nature, and his poor neighbours with humanity.

Had this request been made by a lady, Mrs. Maynard could have gratified it immediately; but as Mr. Ellison was not above four and thirty years old, extremely handsome and agreeable, as well as very rich, she did not think it proper to send him a very young woman, whose charac-

ter at least, might from her situation have been called in question; nor was Mrs. Maynard sufficiently acquainted with him to judge with any certainty of his principles, though all she had seen of him gave her the most favourable prejudices. She therefore wrote him word, she was not immediately able to comply with his desire, as she yet could find but one person perfectly qualified; and to her she imagined he must object, as she had a daughter of twelve years old, whom she could not persuade herself to part with; but assured him she would make diligent search, and did not doubt but she should soon be able to find one proper for his place.

Those who have a true taste for the pleasures of benevolence, cannot be averse to extending the circle. Mr. Ellison's fortune not obliging him to confine his expences within narrow bounds, he had no objection to his house-keeper's bringing a daughter with her; and thought it a sort of duty, arising from the affluence of

of his circumstances, to take one who was by that particular excluded from most services. He no sooner communicated his way of thinking on this point, than Mrs. Maynard dispatched her to her new master.

As soon as she was recovered from the fatigue of her journey, Mr. Ellison thought proper to acquaint her with his plan, that she might know the nature of her business. He told her, ' That the desire of imitating, as far as his fortune would reach it, the benevolent system he saw exercised at Millenium-hall, had induced him to apply there for a house-keeper who was well instructed in their method of acting.' He added, ' That a decent and regular œconomy in his house was what he expected, as far from extravagance and wastefulness as from parsimony. He would have his servants enjoy soberly all the comforts of life, as he thought that to make them happy was his first duty ; but this he knew was best done by order, regularity, and de-

cent frugality. He would have such a number of servants, as could perform the business of his house with ease; for he scarcely knew which was more hurtful to them, idleness or too much labour, and he did not like to have them so very full of employment, that the sickness of one servant should make a confusion in the house, as he had seen in many families; for it was apt to prevent the sick servant from being properly relieved and attended to in time, and the rest were overburdened by additional business, when the invalid was no longer able to perform her part. He therefore desired her to consider how many more servants would be requisite. As for the state of the adjacent poor, being yet but little acquainted with it, he could give no particular directions, but wished she would inform him of what she heard on that point, and likewise mention to him the sort of relief she judged most proper.

Sir William was much diverted at his cousin's female director; he was his own house-

house-keeper, and executed the office indeed with great skill and care, keeping his whole menage in excellent order, without any great trouble to himself; and wondered his cousin would not follow so excellent an example; not considering he was not equally fit for it, having never had occasion to give his attention to domestic affairs, as he got a wife as soon as a house. Sir William, like many people who are so attached to their own opinions, as to think no one can differ from them without being absolutely irrational, was full of wonder, equally surprised at what his cousin did, as at what he omitted; another thing which thus affected him was that Mr. Ellison determined to take one of his farms into his own hands. The baronet asked him, 'If he intended to plant sugar-canes, or sow pepper.' Mr. Ellison smiled at a reproof he thought just enough, and replied, 'That he was sensible of his ignorance in farming, but hoped to get so much knowledge from him as might suffice, together with the care of an honest servant, to prevent his being

' being a very great loser ; and he had ra-
 ' ther suffer a moderate loss, than not
 ' have sufficient land to supply his family,
 ' since without it the country could not
 ' have that patriarchal, hospitable appear-
 ' ance, which constituted its greatest charm.
 He had little merit in receiving well the
 baronet's censures, as they were always
 made with good humour. Mutual re-
 gard, and great taste for each other's soci-
 ety, were the foundation of a very happy
 correspondence between them, which was
 rendered more amusing by the different
 turn of their minds ; nor were Sir Willi-
 am's particularities any obstruction to their
 friendship, as Mr. Ellison avoided intrud-
 ing at unwelcome hours, and every thing
 else that could put him out of his way.

It may not be amiss to shew how Mr.
 Ellison was circumstanced as to a more
 extensive neighbourhood. On the con-
 trary side to Sir William's house, and with-
 in an hundred yards of Mr. Ellison's gar-
 den, lived Mr. Grantham, lawful heir to
 the duke of —, if that nobleman died
 without

without children, which was now highly probable, as he was above threescore years of age, and his dutchess but little younger. Mr. Grantham was indeed a very distant relation, yet was heir both to the estate and title; but his branch of that great family having fallen to decay, he inherited from his father only fifty pounds a year. This he farmed himself, and lived in the only house he had, which was little better than a common cottage. His education had been on a level with his fortune; and his manners were those of a plain honest farmer. But though ill qualified for higher company, regard for his birth, and compassion for his narrow circumstances, procured him a due portion of civility from all the neighbouring gentlemen, among whom he took pleasure in being received, and kept up an interchange of visits. This was not so easily performed by his wife, as she could not be equipped for that purpose, suitable to her inclination. Mr. Grantham was a very honest, sober, sensible, and industrious man, and acquitted himself diligently in the most laborious parts of the farm-

er's business, but was not free from pride of family; and even when following the plow, or stopping up a gap in his hedge, reflected with some inward satisfaction, that he was cousin to a duke, who made as splendid a figure as any man in the kingdom, and if this was a weakness, it must be allowed both natural and pardonable; and produced no bad effects, except the influence it had in his choice of a wife may be called such. He thought he should disgrace his blood by marrying a farmer's daughter, though with such an one he might have got a few hundred pounds, which would have set him much at his ease; and a lieutenant dying in an adjacent town where he was quartered, and leaving a daughter entirely unprovided for, and greatly distressed, he thought her a wife much more suitable to the dignity of his family. Captivated by her gentility rather than by her person, for she was no beauty, he took a pride in addressing the captain's daughter, for the courtesy of a country town kindly bestows the title of captain on every officer, and she was glad to accept of any provision. However,

ever, Mr. Grantham was more fortunate than he had reason to expect; his wife proved very notable and industrious, only too prolific, having perpetuated the family of Granthams, of which the duke and he were the last, by bringing him five sons and three daughters; a number attended with great difficulties in their narrow circumstances; but the thought that they might one day be so many lords and ladies, was a sufficient consolation, and made them behold so numerous a progeny with exultation. In this satisfaction Mrs. Grantham had more than her equal share; for though she could not boast any noble blood in her veins, yet she was more proud of being allied to it, than her husband was of possessing it, and felt more severe mortification from their poverty. When in her utmost dignity, mounted on a hard pillion on a trotting cart-horse, behind her husband or his plowman, she would blush to think how unequal her appearance was to that which the wife of the heir of a dukedom might expect; and when milking her cow, or churning butter, she could not forbear

venting a few feminine imprecations (for like Piercy's wife, she was not genteel enough to curse or swear like a lady) against their ungenerous relation; and it must be allowed that relation well deserved it, who could suffer his next heir to remain in indigence, though a man perhaps of more real worth than many of the elder branch of the family could boast; and leave the children, who must certainly inherit his title, to be educated in a manner that must ever disqualify them from wearing it with dignity or propriety; a circumstance of which Mr. Grantham was so sensible, that it was the most afflicting part of his poverty.

At the distance of about two miles from Mr. Ellison's lived Mr. Allin, a gentleman who inherited a good estate from his father, but being extravagant in his youth, had reduced it within very narrow bounds, and involved himself in difficulties that had a good deal soured his temper, converting his extravagance into parsimony. His society would not have been very eligible,

gible, had it not been for an only daughter who kept his house, whose beauty, accomplishments, and excellent qualities, rendered her the most distinguished young woman in the whole country. A little farther off dwelt Mr. Blackburn, an old gentleman of great merit, who by a due mixture of study and conversation, had greatly embellished an admirable understanding. He had spent many years abroad, at an age when the mind is most capable of improvement from the observation of men and manners; had then entered into the most learned societies in his own country, and enjoyed the friendship of men most distinguished for virtue and abilities; till growing old, and his spirits being much affected by the profligacy and disobedience of an only son, he betook himself to a rural retirement, which he dignified by his extensive knowledge, and uncommon politeness.

On the other side of Mr. Ellison's house, and about five miles from it, lived young Mr. Blackburn, son to the gentleman I have

have just described; his father having given him an estate with a good house upon it, on his marriage with a young woman of family, but no fortune, whose beauty had captivated the young man; his father being glad to encourage any rational inclination, in hopes the society of a woman he loved might reform him from his vices. But success had not answered his wishes; young Mr. Blackburn soon grew tired of his wife, and returned to his bottle, to hunting, gaming, and women; and behaved with such insolence to his father, when he reproached him for his dissolute course of life, that he banished him his presence, and declared a resolution to disinherit him. This breach had subsisted three years, when Mr. Ellison came into the country; and the father still as much offended, and the son as far from reformation as ever.

These were Mr. Ellison's nearest neighbours, and first visitors, paying him their compliments before he had got a room fit to receive them. But as he aimed at no-
I thing

thing farther than neatness and convenience, it was not long before his house was as well furnished as he desired. As soon as he got into it, he had employed several labourers to clear the weeds and rubbish out of his gardens; but Sir William observed, to his great *surprise*, that before they had half done their business, they all disappeared. He enquired of his cousin the reason, and did not think the fact less odd, when Mr. Ellison told him, that, harvest being begun, he thought it but just to let the farmers have all the assistance they could for a work so important to them, and which could not be delayed without great hazard; and he judged it equally right to the labourer, who at that season was sure of employment; but after it was over, might find in him a very desirable resource.

The Baronet stared at an answer he scarcely comprehended, and asked his cousin, ‘ what the farmers and labourers were to him? and whether it was for
‘ their

‘ their benefit or his own, that he intended to cultivate his garden?’

‘ My chief view,’ answered Mr. Ellison, ‘ I acknowledge to be my own gratification, but I would wish that the advantage of the labourer should go hand in hand with it; for both he and the farmer stand in this relation to me, they are of a species which I would endeavour to benefit to the utmost of my power.’

‘ So you do,’ replied the Baronet, ‘ whenever you employ them; the fellows ought to be very grateful to us improvers, for I know not what they would do without us, and yet they are a set of grumbling rascals.’

‘ Their advantage from your improvements,’ said Mr. Ellison, ‘ appear to me more certain than their obligations to gratitude. The motive creates the obligation. Your own amusement is the thing you aim at; the good you do is accidental. Now, I am so great an epicure

'cure, that I love to raise my pleasures
 'as high as I can carry them, and while I
 'amuse myself with improvements, would
 'enjoy the additional satisfaction of in-
 'tentionally benefiting others; and the
 'best means I know to procure this, is,
 'to make the pursuit of my own gratifi-
 'cation so far subservient to the good of
 'the labourer, as to hasten, or retard the
 'first, as shall prove most conducive to
 'the latter. I shall therefore let my work
 'stand still when the poor are sure of other
 'employment; and particularly when
 'the success of the harvest depends
 'so much on the quick gathering in of
 'the corn; for if, while I am making an
 'elegant garden, the grain which should
 'bring in a subsistence for my neigh-
 'bour's family should be spoiled for want
 'of labourers, I could feel little pleasure
 'in walking in it. The good which ne-
 'cessarily follows the indulgence of our
 'inclinations, should excite the labourers
 'gratitude to God, not to us, since it is
 'owing to the wise and gracious or-
 'der of his Providence, that we cannot
 ' gra-

‘ gratify ourselves without in some degree
‘ benefiting others.’

‘ Fine talk, fine talk,’ interrupted Sir William, ‘ I find you are very theoretical ;
‘ when you have lived in the country a
‘ little longer, these exalted ideas will be
‘ brought down by practice ; you will
‘ learn the necessity of taking care of your-
‘ self, for if you relinquish your interests,
‘ you may depend upon it no one else
‘ will take care of them. While you are
‘ providing for the happiness of others,
‘ who is to provide for yours ?’

‘ I myself,’ replied Mr. Ellifson, ‘ the
‘ private happiness of one man is not only
‘ consistent, but in good measure depen-
‘ dent on that of others ; self-love and so-
‘ cial are the same, and we are guilty of a
‘ fatal error when we divide them. As
‘ we have observed, we cannot gratify our
‘ own inclinations, without necessarily be-
‘ nefiting many ; but when with design
‘ we do them good, we encrease our own
‘ pleasures, and feel the strongest convic-
‘ tion

'tion that our happiness is closely connected with the good of others.

'I do not deny but there is something in what you say,' answered Sir William; 'only you carry it too far. I shall like to see these refined notions put to the trial. If by the time the harvest is over, the weather should grow so rainy as to prevent your going on with your garden, should you not be a little vexed at having let slip this fine season?'

'Could I be vexed,' said Mr. Ellison, 'because the fears which induced me to put a stop to its progress were realized? The possibility of bad weather was my motive. Had I been sure the sun would have shone uninterruptedly for six weeks or two months to come, I do not believe I should have dismissed my labourers, as the number was not so great but there remained sufficient hands to get the corn in safely. Therefore, directly contrary to your supposition, if heavy rains come on, I shall feel inexpressible joy in having done my part towards

‘wards preventing the farmer’s losing the
‘reward of his whole year’s labour, and
‘the fulfilling of all his hopes.’

‘Sir William put an end to a conversation which was grown rather disagreeable to him. He was good-natured and humane, but his views were narrow; he had never considered the duties of humanity in so extensive a light. He was careful to hurt nobody, and at times would do kind actions; but it must be when the fancy took him. If any one applied to him, he considered their address as a constraint; and as he persuaded himself that acting from his own pure motion alone was true freedom, they were sure of a refusal; whereas his bounty would liberally relieve those who least expected it. He felt the force of what Mr. Ellison said, and felt it with that uneasiness it will ever give to those who are sensible they stand condemned by it, and yet do not chuse to alter their course. He honoured his cousin, indeed, but was determined to

hu-

humour himself, and therefore chose to hear no more on the subject.

The case happened as he had supposed. At the latter end of the harvest, the weather grew rainy, and he diverted himself with the expectation of seeing Mr. Ellison's patience exhausted; but to his surprise, in two or three days after, the labourers were at liberty, he saw a tolerable number of them digging in different parts, under the protection of little moveable sheds of easy construction, being composed of only four strait poles, with a bar a-cross to keep them at their proper distances, and over the top was thrown a tarpaulin, which likewise hung down on one side, according to the corner wherein the wind sat. The ends of the poles were sharp enough to penetrate sufficiently deep into the earth to keep them from being blown down; and as the cross bar took off with ease, these sheds were moved from place to place with great facility. I question whether Vitruvius ever received more pleasure

pleasure from any edifice he erected, than Mr. Ellison did from this invention, as it enabled the labourer to work in such weather as he otherwise could not have done, or at least not without great hazard to his health.

GEORGE ELLISON

of these movable beds of clay con-
struction, under the protection
of these movable beds of clay con-
struction, was much delighted
with his new invention, and
the elegance of manner
found more by humanly than by
ing in the great world, were far
to any thing he had seen in that country.
Mr. Ellison was peculiarly happy in
his virtues uncommonly conspicuous
each of the brightest for a modern
deserving and contented man, who was
most successful in every other place
to which he was ever sent, and
whether Virgilus ever received more
pleasure

THE

**THE
HISTORY**

OF

Sir GEORGE ELLISON.

BOOK II. CHAP. I.

MR. Blackburn was much delighted with his new neighbour. His understanding, and elegance of manners, polished more by humanity than by mixing in the great world, were far superior to any thing he had seen in that country. Mr. Ellison was peculiarly happy in having his virtues uncommonly conspicuous; they shone the brighter for a modest endeavour to conceal them; which was rendered unsuccessful by every line in his countenance, and every sentence he freely uttered. The early part of his education had

had been a learned one; and if his occupations had denied him leisure to encrease his stock, he had however, found time to preserve unimpaired what he had once obtained. He, likewise, being naturally studious, had seldom passed a day without stealing from business some hours for reading, which by his judicious choice of books, and the clearness and acuteness of his understanding, had furnished him with a good degree of knowledge. These qualities, natural and acquired, rendered him a most desirable companion to Mr. Blackburn, whose extensive learning and noble mind made Mr. Ellison find a pleasure and improvement in his society, which he had never yet received from any one.

But there was another house which had still stronger attractions for Mr. Ellison. Mr. Blackburn delighted his understanding, but Miss Allin captivated his heart. I have told my readers she was very handsome, but perhaps they will expect a more particular description of the woman that could charm a man who had preserved his reason

reason in defiance of the whole sex till the age of thirty five. Miss Allin, though above the general height, could scarcely be called a tall woman, was elegantly formed, and extremely genteel; her motions, though entirely unstudied, were peculiarly graceful; and her hands so fine, that they had no small share in the admiration she excited; yet, her face alone had sufficient attractions without the assistance of the rest of her person. Her features were regular and beautiful; her eyes, of the darkest blue, at every glance beamed forth sweetness and sense; equally penetrating and tender, they seemed to tell all they beheld that she could discover their faults, but could likewise forgive them; her nose was after the Grecian model; her mouth beautiful to excess, the shape was perfect, her lips of the finest red, and her teeth could not be equalled. Her complexion extremely fine, clear as alabaster, and heightened with a gentle blooming red in her cheeks, sufficient to animate her countenance, without lessening the delicacy of it; the shape of her

face was oval, her hair of the finest brown. But it is not in the power of features or complexion to constitute beauty equal to hers; that could be compleated only by the dimples which gave a thousand graces to every smile; and by the sweetness they diffused over her countenance, made an absolute conquest of Mr. Ellison's heart, which felt itself at unison with all the tender benignity her expressive countenance denoted.

Miss Allin's charms were not all confined to her person. She had great sweetness of temper, and exceeding good sense; her father had given her all advantages of education; she played on the harpsichord, not perhaps with the perfection of a person who has made it the business of her life, but with an elegance and facility well calculated to assist one of the finest voices that ever was heard. She understood French and Italian perfectly well, had read a great deal with admirable taste and judgment, having been directed and assisted in her studies by Mr. Blackburn,

burn, with whom she was a great favourite; and within the last three years she had learnt the Latin tongue, as her leisure gave full opportunity; but this she endeavoured to conceal, nor was she forward to exhibit any of her accomplishments, being, in despite of all her perfections, modest, humble, and unaffected. Her address was polite, and possibly the more easy, for having been accustomed from the age of seventeen to do the honours of her father's house, her mother dying at that time. Miss Allin was now twenty five years old, an age which might perhaps have a little abated the lovely bloom in her complexion had she lived more in the world; but a very regular life, and country air, had preserved it in full force.

Had not Mr. Ellison's long indifference rendered the point doubtful, one might suppose much fewer charms would have sufficed to make an impression on a heart naturally so tender as his; but it is probable that even all Miss Allin's attractions

might have proved ineffectual, had they not found him in a state of leisure. Business first, and then duty, had hitherto defended his heart; these shields were now removed, and it lay open to Cupid's arrows; in such a defenceless state it might have fallen a prey to half her perfections, and could not make the least resistance. Nor indeed did he wish it, he yielded himself a willing captive; for as he had no desire to remain single, he with pleasure encouraged an inclination for a woman he thought so well qualified to make him happy, and whose narrow circumstances gave him reason to hope for a favourable reception.

An inclination we chuse rather to encourage than repress is very quick in its growth. Mr. Ellison had been settled but two months in Dorsetshire, when he came to a resolution of asking Mr. Allin's permission to address his daughter, giving him to understand that his fortune set him above all pecuniary demands. The great advantages his daughter would find in
such

such an union, would have made Mr. Allin sufficiently eager to compleat it, had he not been spurred on by the last article, which however was a strong incentive; for the Miser in Moliere was not more sensible of the charms of that part of a lover's address *sans dot*, than Mr. Allin; Mr. Ellison therefore had not only his consent, but his good wishes, and secretly all the influence of his authority. Unfortunately the father's was not the only will of consequence in this case. The joy Mr. Ellison felt on receiving the permission he asked was soon damped; for on explaining himself to Miss Allin, she burst into tears (having foreseen from the manner in which she was left alone with him, what was to be the subject of his conversation) and the more generously and nobly he expressed his affection, the faster her tears flowed. Alarmed by the tenderest fears, he begged to know the cause of her distress; but before she could assume sufficient power over herself to comply, they heard Mr. Allin coming towards them: dreading his presence, she requested her

lover to conceal her uneasiness; and promising to lay her whole heart open to him the next time they met, she made her escape by one door, as her father entered at another.

Mr. Ellison was not much better able than his mistress to support an interview with her father; the most artful hypocrite would find it difficult to dissemble with a heart so painfully oppressed as his was at that instant; but a tender regard for her peace did more than any thing else could have effected; and eluding the old gentleman's questions, in such a manner as gave him no suspicions of what had passed, he pretended business that obliged him to return home directly. Happily it was only a pretence, for he was entirely incapable of transacting any. He shut himself up in his room, in a state of mind which the heart may guess, but words cannot describe. He passed the night in an agitation and anxiety he had before no conception of, the hope which self-flattery would sometimes suggest, only served

ed to prevent his exerting his reason to support what his fears anticipated. He rose before the sun, with a resolution to know his fate ere the day was over; but wished to learn it without Mr. Allin's knowledge.

Unable to contrive any means of effecting this desire, the restlessness of his mind led him abroad; and the impulse of his heart directed him towards Mr. Allin's house. He wandered in the adjacent fields a long time, uncertain what method to pursue; and fearing to create uneasiness to the woman for whom he suffered so much. At length Miss Allin, who had not rested much better than her lover, going to the window in hopes new objects might divert her thoughts, saw him in a field adjoining to the garden. The delicacy of her mind bore so great a resemblance to his, that she imagined the cause which brought him thither, and desirous to conclude the interview before her father rose from his bed, she hastened to him, with as much speed as a person can

use, who feels a very sensible affliction for the pain she is going to give one whom she sincerely esteems.

When he saw her approach, he had scarcely courage to meet her, dreading the explanation he had so impatiently longed for. Maiden bashfulness, with some mixture of concern on one side, and extreme agitation of spirits on the other, rendered them equally unable to speak ; but with common, though tacit consent, they sat down together on a green bank at the foot of a tree ; a long silence ensued ; and it is difficult to say when it would have ended, if Miss Allin had not sooner recovered her spirits than her lover. She tempered the disagreeable intelligence she was going to impart ‘ with very sincere
‘ expressions of concern at the necessity
‘ she saw herself under of giving him
‘ pain ; professed a due sense of his merit,
‘ and lamented that when they first met
‘ her heart was not so free as his, since
‘ then, in all probability, they might have
‘ constituted each others happiness, instead
‘ of

' of mutually destroying each others peace.
 ' She then told him, that she had with
 ' her father's consent been engaged above
 ' a year to Dr. Tunstall, a young phyfi-
 ' cian in the neighbourhood; and their
 ' marriage had been so long deferred, only
 ' by the difficulties her father found, or
 ' that his parsimonious temper made him
 ' imagine, in raising 2000 l. the sum he
 ' had promised to give with her : That
 ' she received the Doctor as her intended
 ' husband at her father's command, when
 ' her heart was so little prejudiced in his
 ' favour, that she could without any very
 ' severe pang have been equally obedient,
 ' had he ordered her never to see him
 ' more; but since she had considered it as
 ' her duty and happiness to increase the
 ' little prepossession she had conceived,
 ' the case was much altered, and she was
 ' now as strongly engaged to him in af-
 ' fection, as in honour ; An engagement
 ' she was determined not to violate, though
 ' she despaired of seeing it fulfilled; for
 ' she had received an express command
 ' from her father never to entertain the

least acquaintance or correspondence with Dr. Tunstall, but to look on Mr. Ellison as her husband, and she feared he would never revoke this decree; since beside the many reasons which she was sensible there was for preferring him to the Doctor, his generosity had added one that with her father was insurmountable, by declining the acceptance of a fortune. She proceeded to say, that she had nothing to expect but her father's anger, which was impetuous and dreadful; all therefore she had to ask of Mr. Ellison, who she hoped would rather think her unfortunate than ungrateful, was that he would, as far as lay in his power, mitigate her father's rage, and prevail with him to let her live peaceably in her present condition; for she relinquished all hopes of changing it; and did it with the less concern, as she imagined his partiality for her might render it more vexatious to him to see her married to another, than merely to be disappointed of her himself.

As I am, like most Biographers, a little partial

partial to my hero, I shall not describe the effect Miss Allin's words had upon him; a writer is apt to see the faults of his favourite through the same medium he does his own; and perhaps cherishes as a virtue, what the unprejudiced censure as a weakness; but I feel also for my hero as one does on those occasions for oneself; how artfully soever self-love may confound the object, and dazzle our judgment, till we behold our folly with complacency, a secret consciousness shews a glimmering of sense remains, for it induces us to conceal, what we are too partial absolutely to condemn. Thus it stands with me at present in regard to Mr. Ellison; the tenderness of his sensations, the delicacy of his sentiments, may appear to me more amiable than wisdom and fortitude; but his soft distress may lower him in the eyes of my less partial readers; I shall therefore only say Miss Allin was rather inclined to think with me, and felt so lively a compassion for him, that she forgot her own grief, and said every thing she thought might contribute to his consolation, except what alone could prove

effectual; but as she was fully determined to adhere strictly to her engagement, she carefully avoided giving him the least room to hope a change in her sentiments.

As soon as his mind was a little composed, he took his leave; assuring her that he would try every means to secure her peace, though he was not yet sufficiently master of his thoughts to see the manner in which it would be most advisable for him to proceed. Each returned to their respective houses, but with different sensations; she found her heart much lightened, since she had acquainted her generous lover with the state of it; but he carried back despair instead of uncertainty. As soon as he got home, he shut himself in his room, and for the whole day would not suffer even a servant to enter. The quiet of the night, and the fatigue his spirits had undergone by the excess of his vexation, brought his mind into some degree of composure; and as soon as he was capable of reflexion, he grew ashamed of himself for having thus indulged a grief,

grief, that was not to be justified by reason. He called himself to a severe account for his ingratitude to providence, in suffering himself to be miserable, because disappointed of one wish; while he remained in possession of so many blessings; and with concern learnt from this instance, how far his heart was from being fixed where it was most due. He considered how incapable we are of knowing what is really best for us; this woman, in the possession of whom he imagined supreme happiness was to be found, might have proved the cause of the greatest distress; her death, or even her being afflicted with a bad state of health; the evils which might have befallen their children, if she had brought him any; by all these ways, and many others, the completion of his wishes might have proved the source of misery; or what was still worse, his fond infatuation might have made him negligent in his duties; and wholly engaged in endeavours to secure her affections, he might have forgot how far more material, and really desirable it was, to obey and please

please that Being, which ought to have the first place in our thoughts and affections.

In these reflexions he found a strength he had not before exerted, and grew resigned, though not indifferent. He had not yet acquired the power of thinking on any other subject, but he could think on this as he ought; he felt the disappointment of his hopes, but felt it like a religious and reasonable man; he suffered his vexation without repining, and was convinced that this mortification was either designed for his benefit, or might be turned to his advantage, if he received and bore it in a proper manner. As much as I am inclined to do honour to Mr. Elison's resignation and philosophy, I would not promise, that had the smallest glimmering of hope broke through the cloud of despair in which he was involved, it might not have put to flight all his reason, and baffled his pious reflections; for man is frail, and philosophy still weaker; but

but as he was put to no such trial, he came off triumphant, though, like many generals, less from the powers of his great courage and wise conduct, than from the enemies not having made the attack on the weakest part, resembling the man in the fable, against the wind of adversity, the blasts of his mistress's scorn, he wrapped his cloak of philosophy close about him, but she might have smiled it away in one gracious hour, had she been so disposed; and possibly all his wise reflexions would have vanished before a soft glance of her eyes; he would have received her as his Creator's last, best gift, without feeling the least apprehension that any pain or evil could spring from such a blessing. We are frequently much obliged to circumstances, for that consistency of conduct which gains us the esteem of mankind, and our own approbation.

C H A P.

C H A P. II.

THOUGH Mr. Ellifon grew resigned and patient as to his own disappointment, yet he was ardently desirous to restore Miss Allin to the happiness of which he had for a time deprived her; and resolved to perform his promise more effectually than she could expect. Accordingly, three days after he had received his sentence from her, he sent an invitation to Mr. Allin to dine with him; and took that opportunity of acquainting him, ' That since he was last at his house, he ' had learnt that Miss Allin had long been ' engaged with his consent to Dr. Tun- ' stall, and therefore had resolved to de- ' sist from his pretensions; as he should ' think himself very criminal, if taking ' advantage of a superiority of fortune; ' he should attempt to deprive another ' of a blessing which must be so dear to ' him, and indeed he should have so bad ' an opinion of a woman who could be ' mercenary or inconstant enough to
break

‘ break her word, though in his favour,
 ‘ as would render it impossible for him
 ‘ to be happy with her.’

Mr. Allin was much disconcerted at this declaration, and answered, ‘ He might do as he pleased ; but that as for Dr. Tunstall, if he intended to marry his daughter, he must wait till business increased, or death put her in possession of his little estate, for he found it impossible to raise a fortune for her, without distressing himself.’ From the account Mr. Ellison had heard of his circumstances, he easily believed there was some truth in what he said, and told him, ‘ He would remove that objection, only desiring him to confirm his former consent with a good grace, and not diminish the satisfaction of his daughter by an apparent reluctance, or even by the coldness of his compliance.’

Mr. Ellison was not slow in executing his purpose. He wrote Miss Allin a letter the next morning, wherein he assured her, ‘ That as her happiness was more
 ‘ dear

‘ dear to him than his own, he could not
‘ support the thought of her being dis-
‘ appointed of the object of her affec-
‘ tions ; a misfortune which he sensibly
‘ felt was most difficult to bear ; and there-
‘ fore hoped she would forgive him, if he
‘ endeavoured by the inclosed trifle to ob-
‘ tain her pardon for having thrown im-
‘ pediments in her road to happiness ;
‘ and he flattered himself she would not
‘ refuse him the sole gratification to which
‘ at present he was sensible, but suffer
‘ him to enjoy the thought of having ad-
‘ vanced the completion of her wishes ;
‘ the only thing that could alleviate the
‘ concern he felt at having occasioned the
‘ uneasiness she must have suffered :’ Add-
ing, ‘ That he could not expect any
‘ other opportunity of asking her pardon,
‘ as he must, in consideration of his own
‘ ease, avoid her presence till he could
‘ behold her with indifference, an altera-
‘ tion which he did not hope even from
‘ time.’ In this letter he inclosed a
draught on his banker for 2000*l*. Mr.
Ellison’s generosity went still farther ; he
feared

feared her father would not acquit himself properly in regard to her cloaths; and considered that as the income of the man she married was very small, to be well equipped might prove hereafter much to her convenience; he therefore sent his housekeeper to the next great town, to buy silks, lace, cambrick, muslins, Hollands, in such abundance, as would not only enable her to make a very genteel appearance on her marriage, but suffice for some years; and he chose to do it in this manner, rather than to make her a present of the money, as the surest means of securing her convenience, to which moderation and generosity might have made her less attentive.

The pleasure he felt in this disinterested conduct, almost extinguished for the time the sense of sorrow; but the heart will have its due; when the gratification began to deaden, vexation returned, and he could gladly have excused the visit Dr. Tunstall made him, in order to return thanks for his generosity; which Mr. Ellison learnt from him was with
great

great pain accepted by Miss Allin ; nor could any thing but her father's express and absolute command, have conquered her reluctance in this particular. The sight of a man so much happier than himself, brought so painful a comparison to Mr. Ellison's mind, that the effect was visible to the Doctor, who could not blame the sensation, though Mr. Ellison could scarcely forgive it in himself ; and was hurt to find, by this first instance, that he was capable of envy, a passion he had never felt before. His politeness however did not forsake him on so severe a trial ; he commanded both his countenance and words so well, as to give his happy rival a kind, though melancholy reception ; and, determined to conquer the sensation he so much disapproved, he expressed an inclination to be sometimes favoured with his visits, though he must request him to excuse his returning them.

Miss Allin was extremely touched with Mr. Ellison's generosity ; the nobleness of his mind charmed her so much, that had
she

she been left to the disposal of her own fate, she would have preferred a single life, to the gratifying her affection for Dr. Tunstall, at the hazard of giving pain to the best of men, to whom she was more than ever sensible no one deserved to be preferred; but the advice of her father, and the pressing solicitations of her lover, who thought the pain and anxiety he had suffered during Mr. Ellison's courtship deserved some reward, prevailed over her generosity; yet she would not consent to so speedy a marriage as he wished, being determined to leave Mr. Ellison the space of three months to reconcile himself to the event, before it was completed.

Dr. Tunstall and Miss Allin were both too grateful to be silent on the obligations they had received, which from their report soon reached Sir William Ellison's ears, but did not so easily obtain his belief; he looked upon it as a most absurd story, and called on his cousin to tell him what

a ridiculous tale he had heard. Mr. Ellison, who had flattered himself that a transaction, wherein some circumstances were of a delicate nature, must remain unknown, was surpris'd to find it had got air; but making no answer, the baronet continued, 'I told the gentleman who related this curious incident, that to be sure my cousin had acquired some strange high-flown notions, but yet was not absurd enough to reward a girl for her bad taste, nor to facilitate her marriage with another man, except he meant to return the affront put upon him, and give her a proof of his indifference.'

Mr. Ellison was a little nettled at the construction Sir William put on this action. 'It would have been an expensive proof of indifference, Sir William, (said he) and laying a very heavy tax on my own vanity, could I have done it for that reason.' 'It would so,' replied the baronet, 'give it what turn one will, it is too foolish to deserve credit, yet there

‘there is nothing too absurd for some people to believe. But you blush, and methinks look a little silly; surely it cannot be true after all; but thou art a queer fellow that is certain.’

‘If you see me a little disconcerted,’ answered Mr. Ellison, ‘it is because your politeness, my friend, is in a scrape that may be rather disagreeable to you, not from my being ashamed of the action, which I cannot with truth deny; for if it is a folly, it is, however, innocent; and so agreeable to me, that I would not have omitted it to have gained the reputation of the profoundest wisdom.’

‘How,’ interrupted Sir William, ‘did it give you pleasure to reward a girl for using you ill? and to reward her too by throwing her into the arms of the man she preferred to you.’

‘I have no cause of complaint against Miss Allin,’ replied Mr. Ellison, ‘all her

her actions are consonant to the high esteem I had conceived for her. What title have I to any woman's heart, that should make me think it an affront to have another man preferred? but in the present case, however severely my love has been disappointed, my vanity can have suffered no mortification, since her heart and word were engaged to Dr. Tunstall, before we ever saw each other. By inconstancy she might have gratified my passion, but must have considerably shaken my esteem. As for throwing her into the arms of another man, I feel the irksomeness of that step very sensibly; to take it, required a very painful effort, and I fear I shall long feel it a source of great vexation. I confess it would have cost me far less uneasiness to have given her my whole fortune to enjoy in a single state; but such ungenerous sensations ought to be mortified; while I suffer by them, I detest them; and, after all, could I act any other part? Had it not been for me, she would be
fore

'fore this time have been united to the
 'object of her affections; every thing was
 'agreed, and all parties happy in the ap-
 'proaching union; when, like her evil
 'genius, I came into this neighbourhood,
 'and cast a thick cloud over the pleasing
 'scene. To her misfortune, she charmed
 'me; my wealth captivated her father's
 'parsimonious soul; and in hopes of sav-
 'ing his money, he broke his word, and
 'required his daughter to sacrifice both
 'her happiness and her conscience to in-
 'terest. I judged of her distress by my
 'own; but her's must exceed mine, as
 'she was commanded not only to forsake
 'the man she loved, but to marry one to
 'whom she was indifferent, nay, perhaps,
 'one she hated, for the misery he had
 'brought upon her. Her conscience too
 'must have hourly upbraided her for so
 'shameful a compliance. These are ag-
 'gravations which I am sure my present
 'situation could not support; and I sup-
 'pose her sensibility is, at least, equal to
 'mine. What then was left for me to
 Vol. I. I do?

‘do? nothing, certainly, but to repair
‘the injury I had done her, to compleat
‘the union I had so nearly broken, and
‘restore her to the happiness I had so cru-
‘elly interrupted. My great consol-
‘ation is, that I have done this; and when
‘I reflect that I have made her happy,
‘I cannot be miserable myself. It is a
‘real satisfaction to me to think, that as
‘far as one can judge on so slight an ac-
‘quaintance, the Doctor is an amiable
‘man; this, though his rival, I could see
‘through all the prejudice of my passion,
‘and if he makes her happy, I shall con-
‘sider him as one of my best friends.’

‘Very sentimental, and very philosophi-
‘cal, truly,’ said Sir William, ‘if all men
‘were as refined as you are, Love would
‘not have made such horrid disturbances
‘in society as are laid to its charge; a dis-
‘appointed lover would no longer be a
‘dangerous animal; as one might con-
‘tent him thoroughly by letting him act
‘the part of father to his mistress, while
‘his

‘his rival performed that of bridegroom.
‘I admire this method prodigiously.’

‘Some time hence,’ answered Mr. Ellison, ‘I may be able to laugh with you on this subject; I can see it may afford room for mirth; but the wound is yet green, and bleeds afresh not only in the presence, but on the thought of her who gave it; and therefore with the same seriousness that I began I must continue. Whatever language my heart may yet speak, my reason tells me, that to believe our happiness is entirely dependent on the possession of any one person, is contrary to good sense, to experience, to religion. Lovely as Miss Allin appears to me, I might not perhaps have been happy with her; nor is it necessary I should be unhappy without her. Our passions are but temporary tyrants, they will torment with whips and scourges for some time, but they wear themselves out by exertion, and at length may be overcome. I see

I 2

‘some

some evils that have already arisen from my too strong attachment to Miss Al-
lin; it has made me remiss in the offices of humanity to others, who had not a due proportion of my thoughts; so much were they engrossed by this passion. Had I been successful in my pursuit, every affection might have centered in her; and from my assiduity to please a beloved wife, all other duties might have been neglected. If this could be the case, as is rendered too probable by the excess of my love, have I not reason to think Providence has been supremely merciful in denying me a temptation I was too weak to resist; and which, from an useful member of society, would have degraded me into a mere fond infatuated husband; and have substituted the ensnaring and intoxicating indulgences of passion, to the calm and solid joys of conscious virtue.

Sir William, who had listened to the latter part of Mr. Ellison's discourse with
gaping

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gaping mouth and staring eyes, as soon as he found he had done speaking, cried out, 'The strangest fellow breathing! that is certain. You a lover! love and so much philosophy never dwelt in the same bosom; you are made for disappointment.' 'At least disappointment is made for me, Sir William,' replied Mr. Ellison, 'therefore it is my duty to extract benefit from it.'

'I could as soon extract sun-beams out of a cucumber, like the chymists in Laputa,' interrupted the baronet, 'but you are a philosopher, and may do much. When I suffered a disappointment somewhat like your's, I raved and ranted, cursed the whole sex, despised my own, hated my rival, and abused myself. I am provoked to see you so rational; and yet I think I admire you as much as I can a man who is continually putting me in disgrace with myself, by leading me to draw a comparison, wherein I make but a very scurvy figure. To endeavour to be as good as you are,

‘ would be an abominable trouble, and
‘ ineffectual at last; and yet I do not like
‘ to set you off by the contrast; why the
‘ devil did you settle just by me? You
‘ are like a statuary who should think
‘ the beauties of a Venus would not be
‘ sufficiently distinguished, if he did not
‘ put a Sybil or a Tefiphone by her side.’
This compliment led the conversation to
different subjects, and the baronet no long-
er persecuted his cousin on a generosity
he scarcely comprehended.

While Mr. Ellison flattered himself
with the hopes of marrying Miss Allin, he
delayed settling his family in the order
he intended, thinking it more advisable
to regulate the whole at once; but when
that prospect vanished, there no longer
subsisted any reason for postponing it.
The knowledge he had of his son’s im-
petuous temper, and bad qualities, de-
termined him to educate him at home.
Whether he would there acquire an equal
share of learning as at school, he much
questioned, but the rectifying his heart
appeared

appeared to him the most essential article towards his happiness ; and of all knowledge that he most wished him to acquire, was the knowledge of himself, and the means of governing his passions ; in these points he thought he might be better instructed under his own eye than at school ; and if thereby he could render him an honest and amiable man, he should have good reason to be contented, though he did not prove a learned one. He had already begun to make proper enquiries after a well qualified tutor ; and was likely to succeed, as he had set no bounds to the salary. To save in the stipend of a tutor, appeared to him the worst sort of extravagance and parsimony, most unnaturally mixed together : If a man is not well qualified for the trust, all that is paid him is thrown away ; if he is equal to it, there is scarcely any thing he does not deserve ; and to refuse to useful and excellent talents, which cannot be acquired but with great expence, and assiduous application, what industrious dulness or lively impudence may acquire, was in his

I 4 opinion

opinion criminally ungenerous. The good education of his son appeared to him of such importance, that he did not believe it possible to acquit himself sufficiently of the obligation he should be under to the man that performed it. As this was his way of thinking, he had no reason to confine his demands within very narrow bounds; he required in a tutor, an exemplary moral conduct, a good temper, a liberal education, knowledge of the world, and a polite and genteel behaviour. He would have thought he had but half provided for his son's education, if he had not got him a tutor, in whom the gentleman and the scholar were united.

As Mr. Ellison was so great a master in the science of benevolence, that he performed few actions that did not bear more than one good fruit, he had in view the serving Mr. Grantham by the home education he intended his son; and therefore made it a condition that the tutor should teach as many boys as he pleased, with the

the same care as his own; and desired he might be acquainted that several would immediately be put under his instruction. Mr. Ellison's liberality was soon rewarded. A gentleman of excellent character, great learning, and amiable manners, having met with some disappointments in the profession of physic to which he was bred, was very glad of so eligible a retirement, on a promised salary of 400 l. a year; the number of scholars was no objection to him; he depended on Mr. Ellison's good sense for not giving him more than he could thoroughly instruct; and he did not doubt but each would learn more assiduously and chearfully, for having companions and competitors.

As soon as this great point was settled, Master Ellison was fetched from school; a very good apartment was allotted to Mr. Green his tutor, and the little Granthams were likewise put entirely under his care, spending few beside their sleeping hours at home; for as their father's house almost joined to Mr. Ellison's, they return-

ed thither without inconvenience every night, coming early the next morning; and having at Mr. Ellison's both their corporal and mental food; the first of which was some ease to the narrow circumstances of those good people, and the latter gave their father the most sincere joy, as he now saw them in a way of being educated equal to their birth, and future fortune, of which he had before utterly despaired. Indeed he found his expence much lightened, for Mr. Ellison carefully provided them apparel, in every respect equal to that worn by his own son; and was very watchful that the latter assumed no superiority over them, to whom he shewed him he was in reality greatly inferior; but this was explained to him in the absence of the Granthams; for Mr. Ellison wished for their sakes the thought might not occur to them; and exhorted their father and mother not to destroy one benefit arising from their present low estate, which might greatly add to the happiness of their lives, by instilling into their minds, a pride that must be the source
both

both of private chagrin, and public contempt.

C H A P. III.

MR. Ellison was not so wholly engaged either by private vexation, or domestic business, as not to extend his attention to all his neighbours. The little estate he had bought lay in three parishes, which gave him a knowledge of the state of each. He found the poor tax ran very high, and yet the poor were but ill taken care of; the farmer was much burdened, the poor but little relieved. When age or sickness rendered them incapable of hard labour, no employment was found for them; the allowances given amounted to a great sum, and yet scarcely afforded a sufficiency for each individual, who really needed the more for having no business; for idleness is a very expensive thing, it gives leisure to imagine wants, that demand their share of an income too small even to provide necessaries; to which they will frequently be preferred. He

found it impossible to act in concert with the head people of the parishes, in every method that occurred to him for lessening these evils; and therefore determined, if possible, to get it entirely into his own hands.

He well knew the only way to obtain a general concurrence, was to gain people by their private interest; and therefore offered to take upon himself the care of the poor of each parish, if the principal parishioners would consent to give him half the sum hitherto paid for the poor's rate. So favourable an offer was not likely to meet with much opposition; Sir William Ellison was the only person who scrupled it; which he did from an unwillingness to suffer his cousin to undergo the expence he feared he was bringing upon himself, well persuaded the money he required could not by any means suffice, especially for some years. But Mr. Ellison desired he would not make that an objection, as it was what he himself had foreseen, but chose to incur it rather than

than suffer the poor to be so improperly provided for; and he believed it possible to put the affair under such regulation, that in a few years the sum contributed might prove sufficient. Sir William, however, generously refused to withdraw his opposition, except Mr. Ellison would suffer him to contribute a large share of the expence; to which the other could have no objection.

These preliminaries being settled, Mr. Ellison hired a row of contiguous cottages, repaired and furnished them comfortably, and then removed the poor into them. His house-keeper undertook to find him a man and woman proper for overseers, who should honestly, and even indulgently, take care to provide them plentifully with all necessaries, and even comforts, carefully watch over their conduct, and see them execute such employments as he should assign them. When we consider where she had been bred, we shall not think this was a difficult task for her to perform; and indeed, she with ease

case found persons well qualified for this office ; who were glad, for the good salary Mr. Ellison allowed them, to leave their former abode and friends. There were few of these poor men so old, as to be incapable of cultivating their little gardens, which yielded good part of their subsistence ; he required each likewise to keep his own room very clean and neat, and not to expect that service from the women, for whom it was more easy to find out profitable employment ; as they could nurse the children thrown upon the parish, attend the sick, do plain work, and spin and knit sufficient cloathing for themselves, and all the rest of the poor, both male and female. Some of the men could assist in the two last employments, and those who could not already do it, were made to learn ; rather to take from them the temptation of pretending ignorance in order to be idle, than from any advantage to be expected from them, as they were by age and disuse rendered so awkward, that they could scarcely gain enough to
pay

pay for the waste they made, and the wool they spoiled.

Amongst the number of each sex these houses contained, Mr. Ellison found some qualified to teach the children whatever might be useful to persons in their condition, and therefore made it their chief employment, appropriating rooms for that purpose; and he seldom failed a daily inspection of his work-house, examining minutely into every particular. As he killed his own meat, he provided them with food at a less expence than if bought at market, and took care it was of the most wholesome kind. He allowed no punishments, as he thought none could properly be inflicted on the sick or aged; but endeavoured by encouragement and indulgences to make them act as he wished; and promoted social comfort, and friendly intercourse among them; omitting nothing that might conduce to their happiness, and the relief of their infirmities.

By

By observation Mr. Ellison found that great distress was sometimes suffered by persons, who either by the law had no right to demand assistance of the parish, without giving up some little tenement they had inherited, and wished to leave to their children; or who from an unuseful, and no blamable pride, were unwilling to be ranked among the parish poor; these people were mostly labourers, who in health could gain a subsistence for their families, but by long sickness were sometimes reduced to extreme distress. For the removal of this evil, he set on foot two subscriptions, one among the men, the other among the women; according to which, by paying a trifle weekly, so little as could not be felt in the poorest family, a fund was raised sufficient to afford each subscriber, in times of sickness, an allowance somewhat exceeding what in health they gained by their labour. This he knew was practised in many places; and the only inconvenience that ever attended it arose from the bad choice of a treasurer, the sum proving sometimes a

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temptation too great for the honesty of the man they trusted; who frequently was as poor as themselves, and embezzled or went off with the money. To secure the people in his neighbourhood from this danger, Mr. Ellison undertook to be their treasurer, keeping a very regular account of the receipts and disbursements; and as a sufficient fund could not be immediately raised to answer any great calls, he, out of the money he had assigned for the parish poor, subscribed eight guineas to each fund, which made them equal to all immediate necessities.

Another great evil at that time subsisted in Mr. Ellison's parish; the vicar and his parishioners were at variance. The former was rather too tenacious of his just rights, for it is possible to be too strict even when we have justice on our side; and the latter, however honest in their dealings with each other, thought it no sin to cheat the parson. Even the gentlemen, as well as the farmers, looked on his tithes as an encroachment; the gentlemen

tllemen forgetting that the establishment of tythes is more ancient than the title most of them have to their estates, and consequently were allowed for in the purchase; and the farmers equally unmindful, that without such deduction a higher rent would be required of them. These sort of quarrels never fail having bad effects; the minister displeased with his parishioners neglects the duty he owes them, and grows careless about their eternal welfare, which is trusted to his care; and they, from hatred to him, become averse to his doctrine, and confounding the man with his office, neglect the duties of christianity because he recommends them, and from contempt for the preacher think lightly of the precepts; so much does a due reverence for, and consequently observance of the Christian religion, depend on our respect for its ministers.

Mr. Ellison wished this gentleman to have so much indulgence for the ignorance and stupidity of his parishioners, as to overlook some of their encroachments on his rights; till he had gained sufficient in-

influence over their minds, to make their inclination coincide with their duty; when he might have received his dues as much from their good will, as from their honesty. But though he was a man of great worth, yet he was so exasperated by their ill treatment, that he could not bring himself to relinquish his just demands, even for a time; though he plainly perceived Mr. Ellison did not intend it should be any pecuniary loss to him. He wanted the humility which would have taught him that no condescension is mean, that can prove conducive to the spiritual benefit of the ignorant. Could Mr. Ellison have prevailed in this point, it would have rendered his task more easy; however, notwithstanding all the difficulties that lay in the way, he performed his part so judiciously, and had gained so great an influence over all parties, by a conduct which had won both their esteem and affection, that he at length proved successful. The common people were convinced, that a man so benevolent and charitable to them, could have no intention to lead

lead them into any thing that was not for their benefit; and Mr. Shaw the minister, had too much good sense to be blind to the force of his arguments. He persuaded each side to make alternate concessions, and had at last the satisfaction of seeing them perfectly reconciled.

When Mr. Ellifson had so far succeeded in his views, as to remove all prejudices against Mr. Shaw, he very strongly represented to him the duties of his office; shewing him that the performance of the church service was the least part of it. His first position, as it was his governing principle, being the duty incumbent on every one to do all the good to others that came within the reach of his power, he observed how much was required from the minister of a parish, who by his instructions and example, might influence all such of his parishioners, as were not incorrigibly abandoned; he therefore was answerable for their souls, and whatever they suffered from his omissions must be imputed to him.

Mr.

Mr. Shaw agreed in this point, but differed with Mr. Ellison in the opinion he entertained of his influence. He allowed it his duty to do all the good in his power, but asserted that power to be very small, since it depended on the attention and understanding of his hearers, the latter of which was circumscribed within very narrow bounds, and the first less than could be imagined; adding, 'That he did not believe a tenth part of his audience remembered, after they were out of church, one word of what they had heard in it.'

Mr. Ellison replied, 'He was entirely of the same opinion; but that the church was not the only place where a clergyman ought to endeavour to do good, as it was perhaps there that he did the least, except he pursued the same plan in other places; for he was well convinced, that if a clergyman would make frequent visits to his parishioners, familiarly explain the fundamentals of the Christian religion, and affectionately urge obedience to its precepts, he would
' find

‘ find his endeavours greatly successful ;
‘ and his audience, after being thus in-
‘ structed, would listen with attention to
‘ his sermons, because they would under-
‘ stand them ; and observe the doctrine,
‘ because their minds were previously
‘ well prepared to receive it.’ Mr. Shaw
was conscious Mr. Ellifson advised no more
than it was his duty to perform ; but the
disagreeable terms on which he and his
parishioners had lived, served as an excuse
to his conscience for omitting the practice.
He had not, indeed, ever considered it
either as quite so important to others, or
so incumbent on himself, as Mr. Ellifson by
a long conversation on the subject convinced
him it was ; but in spite of his convic-
tion, Mr. Ellifson perceived some reluc-
tance in him to begin a duty, the perfor-
mance of which was a kind of tacit re-
flexion upon himself for past omissions.
To render the matter more easy therefore,
Mr. Ellifson invited him to make one at
his Sunday’s party ; it being usual with
him on this day, to entertain a certain
number of the farmers and decent labour-
ers

ers of his parish at dinner, at his own table, to which no other company was then admitted; where he endeavoured, in the course of easy and familiar conversation, to instruct them gradually, and seemingly without design, and to instill in the same imperceptible manner such sentiments into their minds, as had never yet found entrance there. This hospitable custom, had greatly facilitated the reconciliation he had effected between Mr. Shaw and his parish; and it offered Mr. Shaw a good opportunity of becoming more familiarly acquainted with his parishioners; and also by his assistance, Mr. Ellison did not doubt but the conversation would be rendered still more useful to them. This invitation Mr. Shaw readily accepted; and to remove totally any remaining reluctance in him to go to their houses, Mr. Ellison engaged him to walk abroad frequently with him, and seldom failed carrying him into the cottages they passed in their way; till his appearing among them became familiar, and he with ease to himself proceeded

ceeded to visit them even unaccompanied; a condescension received with humble gratitude; for Mr. Ellifson had, by the respect with which he treated Mr. Shaw, greatly raised him in their opinions, and created a kind of reverence in them for their minister, which was very essential towards the proper reception of his doctrine; for as Mr. Ellifson was sensible that a clergyman's power of doing good is proportionate to the respect his parishioners bear him, he saw it his duty to excite it.

Mr. Ellifson perceived that in his own, and the adjacent parishes, a few of the richer sort had usurped the whole government of the parish, excluding all who were not in league with them from any of the public offices; and as it was done merely with a design of advancing their private interests, it occasioned great oppression of the poorer sort, by the illegal rates and assesses they arbitrarily levied; and many other exertions of the power which wealth gave them, over people too poor

to contend, in a country where the process of the law is so expensive, that the rich only can purchase its protection, while those who stand most in need of it are excluded from all hopes of redress. These practices he determined to put an end to, not only in his own parish, but as far as the authority of a justice of the peace could extend; for nothing but want of power appeared to him, a just boundary to benevolence; for this purpose he obtained admission to that bench, which, if the office were executed with discretion, vigilance, and integrity, would prove one of the most valuable blessings in the British constitution. But few see it in so important a light as Mr. Ellison, who thought it his duty to qualify himself by the study of all the branches of the law, which concern the execution of the office of a justice of peace; wherein he observed many inexcusably ignorant. He took care to be well acquainted with the extent of his power, as well as with the properest means of exercising it; and con-

vinced that he could not do a more charitable action than to plead the cause of the widow and the poor, he undertook to prosecute those who were guilty of any unlawful oppressions. This he performed with success in two cases; and the damages granted the injured were so considerable, as sufficiently to deter others from rendering themselves liable to the same sentence.

Mr. Ellison, by his authority as justice of peace, suppressed all disorderly meetings, lessened the number of public houses, and obliged those that remained, to preserve a very uncommon degree of sobriety and regularity. It was not in his power absolutely to prevent that succession of fairs or wakes, which take the people from their work, during one or two of the busiest months in summer; but he suppressed so many of the entertainments exhibited at them, and so strictly watched over their meetings, that he rendered them too dull and sober to be any great temptation even to the most idle. This

care he extended as far as his jurisdiction reached, to the great improvement both of the morals and the circumstances of the poor, for many miles round his house.

He did not oblige any one to go to church, because he thought it should be a matter of choice ; but he would not suffer his neighbours to engage in any amusement during divine service, nor to pass that time in ale-houses ; this prohibition brought most of them to church, as they had no longer any temptation to absent themselves from it, and they soon began to feel a better inducement for going thither, than having nothing to do in any other place ; and what at first was the result of idleness, became their constant practice from inclination.

CH A P. IV.

MR. Ellison's benevolent offices were not confined to persons of the lowest rank. His acquaintance with Mr. Blackburn soon ripened into a very strict

friendship ; which the difference of age rather strengthened, by mixing a degree of reverence with Mr. Ellison's regard, and converting Mr. Blackburn's esteem into a sort of paternal tenderness. They found all the pleasure in each other's conversation, that social intercourse can yield ; but the satisfaction each felt in contemplating the other's virtues, afforded still a more refined delight. Mr. Blackburn, especially, was charmed with the excellence of Mr. Ellison's heart, and if additional years gave himself a title to respect, he felt that his friend's more material superiority, his superior merit, excited sensations scarcely short of veneration. The purity of Mr. Ellison's mind, the warmth of his benevolence, his assiduous prosecution of all the duties of humanity, found in Mr. Blackburn a man not only ready to approve and love, but to imitate them. In many cases, indeed, it was necessary Mr. Ellison should strike the note, or it might not have occurred to his venerable friend, but his heart was always sure to be at union. Age, and ill health, would not permit

permit him to be so actively good, but he was never slow in executing any benevolent action that came within his power; and endeavoured to establish many of the same regulations so successfully contrived by Mr. Ellison; who lent him all the assistance he could in the performance; though the sphere of his own benevolence, required a degree of care and attention, which would have left no leisure to any one, but so excellent an œconomist of his time.

Mr. Ellison never thought he had done his duty while there remained any good action unperformed. He saw the influence he had acquired over Mr. Blackburn, the effect it had on his conduct giving still more evident proofs than his affectionate behaviour; for though he had been always nobly generous, yet from Mr. Ellison he first learnt the uses of extensive charity. This good man therefore, determined to employ his interest towards reconciling the old gentleman to his son, which he hoped would prove a means of

K 3 happiness

happiness to them both; and that the advantage of being restored to his father's favour, might lead young Blackburn into some degree of reformation.

The young man, though he had little regard for his parent, had, however, so much affection for his patrimony, as to wish ardently for a reconciliation; and therefore so far conformed to what Mr. Ellison represented as the necessary previous steps, as to restrain his irregularities; some vices he discontinued, and others he concealed by a more private gratification; till his conduct appeared enough reformed, to furnish Mr. Ellison with good arguments in his favour, which he took every opportunity of urging. Mr. Blackburn, better acquainted with his son's disposition, was little inclined to flatter himself with the hopes of any considerable amendment; from frequent disappointments, and long experience, he was averse to a reconciliation which he declared he was sure could not be permanent; but at length yielded to continual sollicitation;

solicitation ; and suffered Mr. Ellison to bring young Blackburn and his family to his house.

The interview was affecting : The son assumed an air of contrition ; which Mr. Ellison's honest heart inclined him to think was sincere ; and the old gentleman was strongly affected. Paternal love can never be totally extinguished in a virtuous mind ; the presence of his son revived an affection, which for his own peace he had long been reduced to suppress ; and the sight of six fine grandchildren, touched him in the tenderest part. Yet innocent, they had never offended, and had been instructed to caress him in the most engaging manner, which did not fail of pleasing, though he suspected it sprung rather from the art of the parents, than the inclination of the children. Mrs. Blackburn behaved very properly ; her sensations led her to do so, for they were such as she must reasonably with her father-in-law should perceive. She was rejoiced at being recon-

ciled to him, as she hoped it might be the means of bringing her husband to a more regular conduct, and of securing to her children a good provision, even in despite of her husband's extravagance.

Mrs. Blackburn was a woman of great merit. Though very handsome, and ill treated by her husband, she was entirely free from coquetry, or any degree of levity in her conduct. She had a tolerable share of understanding, and, what perhaps was still more for her happiness, weak passions, and blunt sensations. She saw, rather than felt, her husband's ill treatment; the coldness of her heart preserved her from jealousy, and enabled her to act with more regular propriety and prudence, than the strongest sense could have preserved, if accompanied with proportionate passions. Her convenience suffered much by the poverty to which his extravagance frequently reduced them; her reason told her that the riotous company he brought home, were indecent companions for her, and pernicious examples to her children; and

and she felt all the uneasiness on these, and other occasions, that the mind can suffer; in short, she was truly concerned, but not wretched, because her heart was not the seat of her pain; for that alone can render us miserable. This disposition, so great a blessing to one in her trying situation, enabled her to perform all the duties of her station; which by more lively sensations, would probably have been prevented; and if she was not with all her charms likely to inspire strong affections, she could not however fail of exciting esteem, being as free from any great degree of love for herself, as for others; which is not always the case with cold tempers, those who have least social affections, being apt to have the strongest self-love.

Old Mr. Blackburn had a great regard for his worthy daughter-in-law, and she had frequently experienced his generosity, even while he was at variance with her husband, whose faults she had endeavoured, as far as she was able, to conceal

from his father; but never attempting pertinaciously to defend them, had avoided becoming a sharer in the offence; while her concealments, even when they could no longer avail, were considered by the old gentleman as additional proofs of her merit. She was herself an excellent œconomist, and was determined if she could not prevent their ruin, though she must partake of the distress, her conduct should preserve her from any share of the infamy.

Mr. Ellifson soon saw reason to believe that his good offices would have no lasting effect; for he found that the most watchful attention to young Blackburn's conduct, and the most friendly remonstrances he could make, were scarcely sufficient to keep him from daily giving his father some fresh cause of offence.

Mr. Ellifson in his other undertakings was more fortunate. He had the pleasure of observing great improvement in his son, he found his capacity sufficiently good,

good, and that he learnt with ease and willingness. The constant care of the father, and of Mr. Green his tutor, had greatly mended his disposition, and there was reason to hope, that before he was out of tuition, most of his faults might be cured, and amiable virtues implanted in their places. This was a sufficient satisfaction to Mr. Ellison; had his expectations been greater, possibly he might have been mortified to find him excelled by the young Granthams in learning; but his fears for his son had been on points so much more important, that while he conceived hopes of seeing him a good man, he was not very solicitous whether he proved a scholar. He had likewise affection enough for the Granthams to observe the progress of their understandings, and their intense application with pleasure; the two eldest indeed were most remarkable in these particulars; the third was lively and discerning, but not much inclined to study.

Mr. Grantham was extremely happy with the praises given his sons, and would

frequently say with exultation, that now he hoped to see Frank (his second son and favourite) something like a lord; while Mrs. Grantham, more delicate in her expression, and more attentive to her eldest son, expressed her expectation of seeing him a fine nobleman, and worthy to keep company with any duke in the land. But she lamented the different fate of her girls, sensible of the disadvantages they laboured under, though she was attentive to the only part of education to which she was equal, the carriage of their persons; and even when they were scouring a pewter platter, or making up butter, would call to them to hold up their heads; observing how disgraceful it would be to lady Betty, or lady Mary Grantham, to poke so vulgarly. Mr. Ellison would frequently intreat her not to mix predictions with her remonstrances, while they could only awaken the pride, which lurks in every heart; her care he approved, for though they were under a necessity of being poor, he did not see it equally necessary to be awkward; and his wish-

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es for their better education corresponding with Mrs. Grantham's, to contribute towards it in the only way that at that time occurred to his thoughts, he prevailed with his house-keeper to teach the girls to read ; for which their parents had little capacity, and still less leisure ; employing the same master to teach them to write and dance, as attended their brothers and master Ellison. As the house-keeper was willing to give them all the improvement she was able, she engaged a good deal of their time ; and Mr. Green, who was master of the French language, undertook to instruct them in it. Thus employed, they, as well as their brothers, became daily residents at Mr. Ellison's ; and of eight children, two only remained in their parents hands, and those merely because they were too young to learn, the eldest of the two being but four years old ; for Mr. Ellison gave his house-keeper in charge to keep the girls properly dressed, without any expence to their parents, to whom he likewise often made such presents, as he thought conducive to
their

their convenience and reasonable gratifications. Thus he was already, in a manner, father to seven children, and well pleased with his paternity; for the little Granthams, of whom three were boys, and three girls, were all a fond parent could have wished. Another pleasing circumstance to Mr. Ellifson was, that Mr. Green proved no less agreeable to him as a friend and companion, than useful in the capacity of a tutor; and was himself perfectly happy in his situation; contented with the application and talents of his pupils, and charmed with Mr. Ellifson's frank and polite behaviour; for these two qualities were very compatible in a man, whose benevolence and charity were such, that the natural expression of his heart might be termed politeness, being almost always consistent with it.

Mr. Ellifson had likewise great satisfaction in all his other undertakings. He saw the poor live in comfort and content; the higher sort in amity; and perceived the good effects of the familiar intercourse
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he had established between them and Mr. Shaw; though it was frequently interrupted by violent attacks of the rheumatism, with which that gentleman was afflicted, and often rendered thereby incapable of performing divine service. To obviate this evil, and provide more fully for the care of the parish as well as to give Mr. Shaw leisure to attend to his own health, which sometimes suffered for want of it, he offered to pay the salary of a curate, the income of the living not being sufficient to afford it, on condition that he might chuse the person, and that he would daily read morning and evening prayers in his workhouse; a proposal to which Mr. Shaw with joy consented; and a young man of excellent character was made very happy by becoming the object of Mr. Ellison's choice; who allowed him fifty pounds a year as curate, and ten for reading prayers to the poor; beside neatly furnishing a good apartment in a large farm-house for him, which, with free access to Mr. Ellison's table, frequent presents, and little assistances that were no great

great expence to Mr. Ellifon, rendered the young man's circumstances very easy and comfortable.

But of all Mr. Ellifon's charities, none gave him such exquisite delight as the release of prisoners confined for debt. This he had enjoyed but once since his settling in Dorsetshire; the month of May being, intentionally, appropriated annually to that employment, setting aside one hundred and fifty pounds every quarter as a fund for this purpose. As the dearness of provisions in winter, together with the expences peculiar to the season, and the disadvantages which attend it to persons in business, rendered that the most probable time for those distresses to happen, he thought Spring the properest season for his visitation of the prisons. In the month of May, therefore, he set out on his progress, beginning with the nearest towns, and extending his course as his money would allow. He visited the prisons wherever he came; enquired into the sums for which the persons were confined;

fined; and allowed himself time enough in each place, to examine thoroughly into the characters, former circumstances, and every particular relative to the prisoners; applying to great numbers for information, as the most likely means of learning the truth; for though it occasioned his hearing great contradictions, yet he could by the manner of those who represented them in the worst light, distinguish how far they were influenced by prejudice: He could see malice and pique through the warmth and eagerness with which they censured; and too often discover malignity, and pharisaical pride, lurking under the mask of compassion and wisdom. The good that was told him, he did not scrutinize with equal care; persuaded that more praise than a man has a just title to, is seldom given him, and also because the error would be less important. He made acquaintance with the principal people both in, and near those towns, and always cultivated it with care, not only as their information in these points was material, but as it was no less useful to him to know
their

their dispositions well, whereby he could judge how far he might depend on their representations, and be enabled to draw a just balance between the censure and the praise, so frequently by different persons bestowed on the same man. Though many are confined their whole lives in those loathsome scenes of distress and misery, wretched themselves, and useless to the world, for such small sums as would incline one to believe that six hundred pounds might deliver a great number, yet Mr. Ellison found it by no means equal to his wishes; for considering that he should often do a man but little service in releasing him out of prison, except he could enable him to enter into some method of gaining his subsistence, his bounty extended beyond the debt, and to those for whom he had procured liberty, he gave the means of preserving it, by supplying them with the necessary assistances towards getting a livelihood in such manner as was most suitable to their capacities, or the business to which they had been bred. He likewise had sometimes whole families

to cloath, who, by the loss of him on whose industry they depended for a maintenance, were reduced to hunger and nakedness, little habitations to furnish, and the implements of labour to purchase.

In the superior pleasure Mr. Ellison found in this disposition of his money, his taste was natural, for nothing could be more delightful than the scenes it presented to him. The joy a man who has been, for a time that to him appeared extremely long, and which often has been long in reality, confined amidst stench and nastiness, in a loathsome prison; deprived of air, of sunshine, the most general gifts of nature; debarred both of ease of body, and every comfort; with a mind tortured by the sense of his own wretchedness, and sad reflexions on the misery of a family he loves; the distress, perhaps the insults, to which a wife for whom he has the tenderest affection is exposed, the sufferings that afflict the infancy of a beloved offspring, left without the support, the care, the protection of a father; the joy, I say, that
such

such a man must feel, at being taken out of this wretched state, restored to light and liberty, cannot fail of communicating itself to the heart of him whose benevolence bestowed the blessing; nor can words describe his sensations, whenever he beheld one of these, so late unhappy wretches, filled with gratitude and exultation, received with transport by an amiable wife, caressed in the tenderest manner by a family of lovely children, and wept over by a parent, to whose aged arms he was thus restored; all seeming to think every sorrow at an end, and the world become a state of felicity. While divided by the variety of delightful sensations with which they were at once affected, they could not feel that warm and perfect gratitude, which filled the heart of Mr. Ellison, toward the Being from whom he had received the power of dispensing so much happiness.

These scenes were indeed the great feasts of his soul, but all his hours yielded him refined pleasures, because they were
all

all spent in the exercise of benevolence; a desire to do good to others, was so entirely his governing principle, that however engaged in business or pleasure, he never lost sight of it, endeavouring to promote it by every action of his life. He would not allow himself to pursue even the gratifications of friendship, without attempting to turn the esteem conceived for him to the benefit of his friend or others. Nor was he contented with doing some good, except it was the best he could do; to serve another did not appear to him sufficient, if he did not serve him to the utmost of his power. As this was the constant fixed principle of his mind, it occasioned none of that eagerness and bustle by which starts of benevolence are generally distinguished, and often excites our admiration by rendering it more conspicuous; on the contrary, all he did was performed with so much calmness and humility, that if the effects had not proclaimed the motive, it would never have been discerned. In short, the stream of benevolence never meeting with any obstruction

struction in his heart, flowed with so gentle and uninterrupted a current, as eluded the observation of the inattentive. The pleasure he felt from this course of life was so great, as to enable him to bear without repining, and even without any very severe pangs, the disappointment of the hopes he had entertained of enjoying Mrs. Tunstall's society; though his affection seemed invincible. He avoided meeting her, banished her as much as possible from his thoughts; and when her image would obtrude itself, duty and reason came to his assistance, and enabled him to suppress the tender ideas which people are too apt to indulge. His conduct evidently shewed, that a passion which makes so much confusion in the world, owes its strength only to our weakness, and that if properly resisted, by the arms wherewith reason and religion can furnish us, it may be restrained within such innocent and moderate bounds, as neither to make us infamous or unhappy, though we may not be able totally to extinguish it. If people would but exert these powers, what

what various vexations and distresses would they escape ! but they too often yield to the impulse of passion, from a persuasion that it is irresistible ; a fatal error ! believed by indolence and weakness ; when it is in every person's power to confute it, if he will but firmly and sincerely endeavour to conquer.

C H A P. V.

HOWever satisfied Mr. Ellison might be with his way of life, it did not please Sir William ; who having long wondered at half his cousin's actions, at last attacked him gravely upon the impropriety he was guilty of in not living up to the dignity of his fortune, which he asserted to be every man's duty, observing that ' without subordination and distinctions society must be destroyed ;' with many other the like positions, which in themselves were true, only, as frequently happens, the conclusions proved to be false.

Mr.

Mr. Ellifon allowed the necessity of subordination, &c. but would not agree to the consequences the Baronet deduced from the proposition. ‘ You may,’ said he, ‘ from my actions perceive that I am no ‘ leveller; I enjoy every gratification fortune can yield me; I have a very good ‘ house, not only conveniently, but handsomely furnished; I keep a plentiful ‘ table, and admit as much variety and ‘ elegance in that article, as is consistent ‘ with health and temperance; I have an ‘ equipage, as many servants as convenience requires, and indulge myself in ‘ improving my garden, and the grounds ‘ about my house, in the manner that ‘ best suits my inclination. What farther ‘ distinction can my fortune make? What ‘ greater enjoyment can it yield me, ‘ while confined to myself? I raise no ‘ one to the same affluence that I enjoy, ‘ though I endeavour to give them the ‘ blessing of plenty; surely then I am far ‘ from destroying the subordination you ‘ think so necessary; an opinion which I ‘ am not going to dispute.’

‘ That

‘ That you enjoy the comforts of life,’
 replied Sir William, ‘ I grant, and all you
 ‘ have said of your manner of living im-
 ‘ plies nothing more ; but where is the figure
 ‘ in which you ought to appear ? The dig-
 ‘ nity your fortune will allow, and there-
 ‘ fore requires of you. I make no ob-
 ‘ jection to your house ; were it less good,
 ‘ its vicinity to mine would render me so
 ‘ partial to it, that it would escape my
 ‘ censure. I can see no faults in a habi-
 ‘ tation to which I owe so much of your
 ‘ society ; but all prejudice aside, it is
 ‘ spacious and handsome ; it is your dis-
 ‘ position of it only that I shall criticize ;
 ‘ you might have a noble suite of rooms
 ‘ on the two first floors ; and I know no-
 ‘ thing that bears more the air of gran-
 ‘ deur than being led through three or
 ‘ four fine rooms, handsomely furnished,
 ‘ before we are brought into that where the
 ‘ master of the house waits to receive
 ‘ us. This advantage, which so few have
 ‘ houses that will allow, you throw away ;
 ‘ you have fitted up but two below, and
 ‘ one above stairs, on account of the
 Vol. I. L ‘ prospect,

‘ prospect, for company, and use no others
‘ for that purpose, having appropriated
‘ those which should have been included
‘ in your grand apartments to other people; as for example, Mr. Green has
‘ one for his school-room, your house-
‘ keeper another, in a third you have put
‘ up a bed where the curate is invited to
‘ lye whenever a rainy evening overtakes
‘ him at your house. Then Mr. Green
‘ and your son have each of them a room
‘ that would not disgrace a palace; tutors
‘ are not generally treated with so much
‘ ceremony; your son is another thing,
‘ he is your heir and mine, and will succeed to my title; it is proper therefore
‘ he should be used with distinction. I do
‘ not object to your furniture, for considering the use to which you have destined your rooms, it would have been ill
‘ judged to have put any thing in them
‘ that was more than plain and neat.
‘ Your equipage’——‘ Stay, Sir William’, interrupted Mr. Ellifon, ‘ suffer me to answer to the charge against me article by
‘ ar-

' article, or I may make too slight a de-
 ' fence. As for state, my good friend,
 ' I am not made for it; on what pretence
 ' could I assume it? My fortune is good,
 ' and I hope I am grateful to Providence
 ' that it is so, but were it ten times
 ' greater, what real dignity can be given
 ' me by a thing that industrious dulness
 ' may acquire, or dishonest arts more
 ' certainly, and more speedily, may gain?
 ' If wealth was to be procured only by
 ' virtue, it would indeed carry great ho-
 ' nour with it; but I fear the steps to-
 ' wards riches are seldom virtuous; the
 ' way to great wealth lies through quite
 ' a different road; how then can fortune
 ' give us dignity? Shall prosperous vil-
 ' lany be honoured? Shall we respect the
 ' man who has been guilty of public ra-
 ' pine or private fraud, because he has ac-
 ' cumulated much wealth? Yet this we
 ' must do if riches are allowed to give real
 ' dignity. For my part, I see them in so
 ' different a light, that I am thankful my
 ' fortune does not *dishonour* me, and think
 ' myself happy that my possessions neither

wound my conscience nor my reputation; so far from expecting honour from them, I am well contented that they are unaccompanied with infamy. Thus, therefore, I disclaim all right to dignity from my circumstances, and to endeavour to assume it would be fruitless. If I have any inherent dignity, I presume it will accompany me in all places; if I have not, the grandeur of my apartments will not bestow it. So much ceremony to bring us into the presence of an insignificant Being, in my opinion, wears an air of ridicule; and if during so long a progress, any ideas of greatness have entered our minds, they only serve to make the master of the house appear still more mean. On such occasions, the custom in some eastern nations of erecting magnificent temples to a monkey, is apt to come into my thoughts. Beside, such state is contrary to my notions of hospitality; a man who receives his guests with pleasure, should be of easier access. A state apartment,
as

‘ as it is unfit for me, could yield me no
‘ satisfaction ; it is not so with the manner
‘ in which I have disposed of the rooms
‘ you regret my not giving my friends the
‘ trouble of walking through. It is a
‘ great gratification to me to see Mr. Green
‘ in possession of an agreeable apartment ;
‘ the office of tutor I think one of real
‘ dignity, and I must always have the
‘ truest respect for a man who by nature,
‘ and the good use he has made of the ad-
‘ vantages of education, is capable of
‘ forming and instructing a youthful mind,
‘ and conscientiously and diligently per-
‘ forms the task. His undertaking is of
‘ the most useful sort, and requires the
‘ best abilities ; I therefore respect the of-
‘ fice in proportion to its importance, and
‘ love the man both from a sense of his
‘ merits, and my obligations to him.
‘ Whoever receives a person into their
‘ house in that character, who is not equal
‘ to it, acts a very weak part ; and if he
‘ is capable of so noble an undertaking,
‘ the man dishonours himself who does not

‘ pay him the respect he so well deserves.
‘ The office is laborious, it ought to be tempered with all the indulgencies and gratifications we can give. I am happy in having a comfortable room for the worthy curate; I esteem his merits, and I revere his profession. If the smallness of his circumstances may lower him in the eyes of his parish, it is my duty to endeavour to raise him, by treating him with the distinction due to his virtues. Now, my good friend, you are welcome to proceed to my equipage.’

‘ Give me leave then,’ said Sir William, ‘ to tell you that your equipage is pitiful. Is it decent in a man of your fortune to keep only a pair of horses? Then you never go attended by more than one footman; indeed you keep but two, and they wait less on yourself than on your friends, at whose command they are always ready. There is not a gentleman in the county, with a fourth part of your income, whose equipage and retinue is not genteeler than yours.
‘ I the

‘I the more wondered at the last article,
‘for as you love maintaining the poor,
‘how can you do this better than by an
‘increase of attendants? and then you
‘would have some figure for your money.’

‘I will not,’ replied Mr. Ellison, ‘say
‘that to your charge I plead guilty; for
‘though I acknowledge the truth of the
‘fact, I do not allow the guilt. As for
‘my equipage, a pair of horses are suf-
‘ficient for any occasions I have; and serve
‘to supply the demands of Mrs. Gran-
‘tham, Mrs. Blackburn, or any other of
‘my neighbours, who chuse to borrow
‘them; why therefore should I trouble
‘myself with more? or keep unnecessary
‘horses, at an expence that might afford
‘the requisites of life to a whole family?
‘Neither do I by any means subscribe to
‘the reasons you give me for increasing
‘the number of my footmen; except I
‘were to take the maimed and the blind
‘in that capacity, I look upon it as a very
‘uncharitable action. Every man of mo-
‘derate age, and tolerable health, is able

‘ to gain a subsistence, and that by means
‘ useful to the community; and beneficial
‘ to himself; *health to himself, and to his*
‘ *children bread, the labourer bears.*’

‘ But footmen, beyond the number ne-
‘ cessary to the business of your house,
‘ which never can require many, are main-
‘ tained in idleness; their health and their
‘ morals suffer from want of employment;
‘ their education incapacitates them from
‘ making any mental use of leisure, and
‘ they are freed from corporeal labour by
‘ custom; time hangs so heavy on their
‘ hands, that vice generally finds them
‘ ready to embrace any method it points
‘ out to them for getting rid of what they
‘ know not how to employ. To give
‘ sustenance to those who cannot obtain
‘ it, to add some conveniences and com-
‘ forts to such as can procure themselves
‘ only bare necessities, I think my duty,
‘ as far as my power will reach; but to
‘ maintain in idleness, men who are able
‘ to work, I consider as a double crime,
‘ first as I hurt them very essentially, and
‘ se-

'secondly, as it is spending amiss the
 'money with which it has pleased Provi-
 'dence to entrust me, for better purposes;
 'I may likewise add another very weighty
 'objection, the depriving society of hands
 'whose labour might be very useful to it.
 'My seeing it in this light, is the reason
 'that I never will hire a country lad as a
 'footman; it would deeply wound my
 'conscience to take such an one out of a
 'way of life where he might honestly get
 'his bread, enjoy the blessings of nature
 'with sobriety and industry, to introduce
 'him into a state, where idleness must in
 'all probability corrupt that integrity;
 'which is the only certain foundation of
 'ease in this life, and of happiness in the
 'world to come. The consequences bear
 'great resemblance to those attending a
 'crime I sincerely detest; for next to se-
 'ducing the virtue of a thoughtless or
 'simple girl, is the corrupting the inno-
 'cence of an ignorant man; for such
 'must ever be the consequences of idle-
 'ness. I will always, by giving my ser-
 'vants sufficient employment, endeavour

‘to preserve what virtues they bring to
‘me, and to obstruct many temptations
‘to the vices they have acquired, as well
‘as the opportunity of indulging them;
‘but no man shall ever, by my means,
‘be brought into so dangerous a station.

‘It is dangerous enough, that is the
‘truth of it,’ said the baronet, ‘but you
‘reflect on these things with strange
‘seriousness. Am I to be the guardian
‘of other men’s morals? I know what
‘you are going to answer; you will tell
‘me that I must not introduce them into
‘temptations which may corrupt; there
‘is something in that; but you carry all
‘those matters too far. But to proceed
‘with your way of life. I have no great
‘fault to find with your table; if it is
‘not so splendid, nor so curious as those of
‘some of our neighbours, yet every thing
‘upon it is always excellent, and there
‘is an elegance in the neatness of it,
‘which distinguishes it to advantage; less
‘variety is wanting where every dish is so
‘good, that an Epicure would allow that
‘one

one sufficient. Plentiful your table must
necessarily be, since so many are daily fed
at it. But I cannot think without smiling
on your improvements in your garden and grounds, and all you have done
is beautiful and new, for you have wisely
avoided imitation; but to watch the
progress, is infinitely entertaining. What
tribes of skipping children, and hob-
ling old men and women are employed?
In summer especially, one shall scarcely
find an able bodied man in the whole
extent. Some of your labourers seem
fit to dig nothing but their own graves;
first or second childhood always finds
favour in your sight. If you employ-
ed proper workmen, your whole plan
would have been executed before
this time, whereas it is not now half
done. But this is your business; your
garden is finished, and that is the only
part I see from my windows; but what
vexes me is, that people must think
you employ there young and old chil-
dren out of a spirit of covetousness,

‘having them for a trifle, as indeed you
‘might; though I know you give the
‘poor feeble wretches the wages of the
‘best labourers; and the children double
‘what they deserve. This is a disgrace
‘to you, and therefore, as I said, it vexes
‘me.’

‘That you are inclined to laugh at my
‘labourers,’ answered Mr. Ellison, ‘I do
‘not take at all amiss; I sometimes can-
‘not forbear it myself, when I see two
‘of the poor worn-out fellows, trying
‘with all their might to raise a stone or
‘log of wood from the ground, which I
‘could lift with one hand, till at length,
‘finding their endeavours ineffectual, one
‘of them calls his grandson Jacky or Tom-
‘my to add his mite of strength, and
‘thereby perform the wondrous feat, of
‘which they are as proud as Hercules of
‘any of his labours. Sometimes too a little
‘failure of eye-sight leads them into ri-
‘diculous errors, wherein I am obliged
‘to let them continue, rather than mortifi-
‘fy them with the sense of their infirmi-
‘ties.’

' ties. I do not wonder therefore if you
 ' are diverted ; but I am sorry you should
 ' be vexed. What hurt does it do me,
 ' that people mistake my motive ; they
 ' so frequently charge me with being la-
 ' vish, that if they sometimes impute a little
 ' covetousness to me unjustly, it will only
 ' serve to form a kind of balance, which
 ' may the better reconcile them to my
 ' conduct. By able-bodied men, as you
 ' observe, my work might have been done
 ' long ago, and with much less expence ;
 ' but what advantage would that have
 ' been to me ? my great amusement would
 ' be over, for most things give us more
 ' pleasure in the prosecution than in the
 ' enjoyment ; and as for the expence, I
 ' should be very glad to be at the same,
 ' were I never to have any property in
 ' the work. Youth cannot be too early
 ' inured to labour. I consider that in the
 ' children I employ, I am sowing the seeds
 ' of future strength and industry ; and in
 ' the mean time their parents feel the be-
 ' nefits of a numerous offspring, and learn
 ' to see it a gracious gift from Provi-
 ' dence,

dence, which those cannot easily think it, who find their children a heavy burden for twelve or fourteen years; and as it relieves them from a good deal of this load, it encourages others to marry, who observe that in a very few years, a child may gain sufficient to discharge the additional expence it creates. I look on idleness as so great a curse, that I think I make old age happy in employing it; the decrepid by this means preserve their independency, and while they see they are of some use, they are less sensible of their infirmities; they even admire their own powers, when they behold the beauties which they have had their share in producing; and I verily believe, for that reason, think my garden the finest thing the world ever contained since the destruction of paradise. I certainly would on no account give them less wages than their juniors require; their age wants fuller comforts, and greater indulgencies, and I should be sorry to join with time in oppressing them. In the summer, as you observe, I have few
others :

‘others : A labourer is as happy if employed by one of my neighbours, as by myself, he therefore receives no benefit from my work ; and for that reason I chuse he should become mine only, when no one else has business for him ; and in the interim I content myself with those whom no other person will accept.’

‘I am surprised,’ said Sir William, ‘you ever eat a meal ; for you might always find somebody who had rather eat it, than leave it to you.’

‘No, no, my good friend,’ answered Mr. Ellison, ‘when necessities are in question, I first consider myself.’

‘I do not understand your way of acting. Is not all you have your own ?’ interrupted the knight.

‘Not a shilling of it, Sir William,’ replied Mr. Ellison, ‘I have nothing of my own. You stare ; I will explain myself

‘ self at once. I consider every thing I
‘ possess, my fortune, my talents, and my
‘ time, as given me in trust, to be ex-
‘ pended in the service of the Giver. I
‘ am but a steward, and must render an
‘ exact account of all that is delivered in-
‘ to my hands. The best manner in
‘ which I can serve my master, is in bene-
‘ fitting his creatures; I therefore think
‘ myself obliged to spend the greatest part
‘ of my fortune in relieving the necessi-
‘ tous, in providing for the good of their
‘ souls, and the ease of their bodies. My
‘ understanding is given to direct me in
‘ the best way of performing this, and to
‘ have its share in doing good to others,
‘ as well as to be exercised in thankful-
‘ ness to, and adoration of that Being, who
‘ has graciously bestowed on me so de-
‘ lightful an office; and these ought also
‘ to be the chief employments of my time,
‘ and the purposes to which I should ap-
‘ ply my health. But as I believe that
‘ my bountiful Master designed I should
‘ have a due proportion of these things

‘ for

‘for my own enjoyment, you see I allow
‘myself a far greater abundance than I
‘give to any one else; but even that I
‘should not think justifiable, if I could
‘not make it more conducive to his ser-
‘vice, than a contrary course. Thus, my
‘good friend, I have opened to you my
‘whole heart; these are the principles
‘which I hope will ever direct me, and
‘prove the rule of my whole conduct. If
‘I am mistaken, which in this point I
‘think scarcely possible, it is at least an
‘error which affords me great happiness,
‘and much inward satisfaction; and as
‘my motive is right, I have no doubt but
‘what results from it will be acceptable;
‘when we act in opposition to pride, va-
‘nity, and sensuality, we are certainly on
‘the safe side. I can claim no merit
‘from mortification; as I could by no
‘means obtain a happiness equal to what
‘I enjoy from my present way of think-
‘ing.’

Mr. Ellison had never made so full a
declaration of his principle of action;
though

though he had at different times expressed the same sentiments. He was glad of every opportunity of speaking on the subject, without seeming to seek it, for he wished to bring the baronet over to his opinions, but knew that an appearance of a design to influence him, must frustrate all his hopes. He was therefore well pleased that Sir William blamed his conduct, as by defending himself, he got an opportunity of urging more strongly, arguments which were to him convincing; and had the satisfaction of seeing they made no small impression. They raised such scruples in the baronet's mind, that he frequently resumed the subject, and by degrees was brought to approve Mr. Ellifon's conduct, though he could not resolve to imitate it thoroughly. He felt himself more inclined to give his money than his time, for he was indolent but not covetous; and as far as his vanity, and his notions of dignity, which could not be totally eradicated, would permit, he was willing to join with Mr. Ellifon in some of his charities, on condition that he should

should be excused from taking his share of the trouble. As nothing appeared to him so worthy of compassion, as that state which deprived a man of all power over his own actions, and subjected him entirely to the will of another, he desired he might add four hundred a year to Mr. Ellison's fund for the release of prisoners; and gave him liberty to apply to him on any exigence that should offer. The annual four hundred Mr. Ellison readily accepted; but was backward as to the use of the permission he gave him, finding that the peculiarity of his humour made him apt to start objections to any thing proposed; not from an unwillingness to part with his money, but from a reluctance to agree in any other person's opinions.

C H A P. VI.

THOUGH temperance and virtue are the best preservatives of health, yet they cannot secure to any one an uninterrupted state. Mr. Ellison, while employed in assiduous endeavours to alleviate the sufferings.

sufferings of others, became himself the object of compassion. He was seized with a violent fever, which so far baffled the skill and care of Dr. Tunstall, for whom he had sent on being first taken ill, that in three days he was entirely delirious, and his life judged to be in great danger. The grief of his friends and dependents is easier to be imagined than described; but none felt more sincerely on the occasion than Mrs. Tunstall, whose gratitude attached her very strongly to him, tho' she had never been in his company since the morning that determined him to give up all pretensions to her. She always waited the doctor's return with impatient anxiety, and was greatly affected by the account her husband gave her in the beginning of the second week of Mr. Ellison's illness, of the accident which had happened to his house-keeper; who, by a fall down stairs, had put out her ankle, and must be totally confined to her chamber; whereby Mr. Ellison was deprived of a very careful, tender, and sensible nurse, which his situation rendered extremely

tremely necessary, and yet the doctor saw no means of procuring him one; any of the servants, or people in the parish, would have attended him with care and affection, but their ignorance disqualified them for the trust. Mrs. Tunstall was shocked to think of the danger he must run in such hands, and asked, 'Whether there was any probability that in his insane state of mind he should know her; for if not, she should think herself very happy, if by her care and attendance, she could make any return for the obligations he had conferred on her.' The doctor replied, 'That he did not think there was any chance of his knowing her, his senses were so entirely disordered, but that the fatigues of such an office, together with the anxiety she must feel for so excellent a friend, might prove very dangerous in her present state, she being then in the eighth month of her pregnancy, and therefore he could not easily agree to it.'

'As

‘As for my health,’ answered Mrs. Tunstall, ‘to what dangers ought not gratitude to prompt me to expose myself, for the sake of the man to whom I owe my present happiness; in a word, to whom I owe *You!* I should not desert you if I did not feel the debt too great to be discharged, but yet endeavour to do all in my power towards acquitting it. The welfare of the child I bear is a tenderer point; but as what I am going to do, appears to me an indispensable duty, I am superstitious or enthusiastic enough, to think it will not be attended with any bad consequences. You will of course be there great part of every day, and will be a judge if there appears to be any danger of its producing very bad effects; I may then, if necessity requires it, relinquish my charge, the worst may by that time be past; and I am really persuaded, that my mind will be much more at ease when I am following the impulse of my gratitude, than if I have any room to reproach myself for an omission of duty. Reflexions

‘ons

“ons of that sort, together with my regard for Mr. Ellison, would make his death so affecting, as in my opinion might be more dangerous in my present state than the fatigue you apprehend.”

The Doctor's tenderness for his amiable wife made him very unwilling to consent to her proposal; but she urged it with such persuasive importunity, that he at length, though reluctantly, agreed to carry her to Mr. Ellison's that very day.

She had no sooner given such orders as were necessary for the conduct of her family during her absence, and packed up the linen she should want, than she summoned the doctor to perform his promise. He did not delay the execution of it, but carried her thither; and introducing her to the house-keeper, acquainted her with Mrs. Tunstall's motives. The good woman, whose accident had given her more concern on her master's account than on her own, was overjoyed at finding her place would be so well supplied; and readily granted Mrs. Tunstall's request,
of

of not informing Mr. Ellison, if they had the happiness of seeing him recover, that Mrs. Tunstall had ever been there, which she hoped to conceal from him, by retiring upon the first symptoms of a return of reason. Her motive for this caution was, the fear lest such a token of her regard might awaken any tender sensations in his heart, which she flattered herself had been for some time at ease; though the period he had fixed for avoiding her, that wherein he should be totally indifferent, was perhaps not come, as he had hitherto observed the same care. The house-keeper promised to give the like caution to the rest of the servants.

It is easy to imagine that Mrs. Tunstall must perform with the greatest assiduity an office she undertook out of gratitude. The only rest she allowed herself was on a couch, in Mr. Ellison's chamber; she mixed all his medicines, and gave him every thing he took; but was careful not to approach his bed-side on his first waking, lest sleep might calm his delirium, and

and expose her to his knowledge. She was seldom out of his chamber, except during one or two short visits she daily made his house-keeper, for a whole week that he continued in the same melancholy state; he then began to recover his senses, but was so weak and spent, he took little notice of any thing that passed; she therefore prolonged her attendance for some days, keeping out of his sight, but directing the nurse, and watching that all proper care was taken; and she had the satisfaction, before Mr. Ellison was well enough to discover there was any other person than his nurse in the room, to see the house-keeper able to be brought in, and take the same care she herself had done for some days, though she was not sufficiently recovered to walk, or even stand; she then with great joy resigned her office, and returned home, free from the apprehensions for Mr. Ellison's life which had induced her to leave it.

Every day confirmed her in this easy state of mind; for his recovery, though slow, was uninterrupted; and the many hearts which his extreme danger had oppressed with grief and anxiety were relieved from their heavy burden; more sensible than ever of the value of the man on whom their happiness depended, as all their sensibility had been awakened by his illness. The house-keeper, who was charmed with Mrs. Tunstall's conduct, and had made an impression equally favourable on that lady, was faithful to her promise; being not only silent herself, as to the friendly part Mrs. Tunstall had acted, but taking care that the family should all be equally prudent. The same caution had been given to Sir William, but not with the like success. He had been much concerned for his cousin, though a fear lest his disorder might be contagious, had prevented his entering his chamber. He had called at the house daily, and always asking for Mrs. Tunstall had frequently seen her; but a reluctance to absenting herself from her

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patient, had made her reduce those interviews into very short compass; only staying long enough to answer his enquiries after the sick man. The appearance of so strong an attachment, the hazard she had run, and the uncommonness of the action, had made such an impression on him, that the utmost his prudence could effect, was to be silent on the subject, till his cousin was pretty well recovered; and then, news being brought them as they were sitting together that Mrs. Tunstall was brought to bed, he could not forbear observing, that she had but just had time to recover her fatigue.

Mr. Ellison usually avoided entering into any conversation on a subject wherein he felt himself too tenderly interested, but his sensibility on the present occasion put him off his guard; and he enquired to what fatigue Sir William alluded. The Baronet could no longer resist the desire he felt of acquainting his cousin with Mrs. Tunstall's extraordinary care of him, to which Mr. Ellison listened with equal sur-

prize and pleasure. Her conduct on this occasion had the effect she feared from it, if it came to his knowledge, for it awakened every tender sensation; but these were not accompanied with the pain she thought might attend them. He had brought himself to such a patient acquiescence in the decrees of Providence, that while he cherished the remembrance of her with tenderness, his regret for his disappointment was calm and temperate. He attributed her care to the gratitude of a noble mind, and felt ineffable pleasure in so strong a proof that his esteem was just. The action agreed so well with the generosity of his nature, that to him it appeared natural, and he did not draw from it one argument that could flatter his passion with a probability of her being actuated by any other principle; nor indeed did he wish it; to have believed she harboured a sentiment which must have interrupted her happiness, without increasing his, would have given him pain; with pleasure he saw he had no reason for any such suspicion, and refuted all the
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arguments Sir William's narrower mind urged, to persuade him that tenderness had as great a share as generosity in Mrs. Tunstall's behaviour. Any virtue in a moderate degree is easily credited, but when it exceeds the common boundary, it is generally misconstrued into some vice, or selfish purpose, by people who cannot comprehend what is so far above their own feelings. I have seldom known an action greatly generous, fail being attributed to some view of private interest, and bring some degree of discredit on the person who would have gained honour by a small bounty. A mind truly firm and noble will disregard this consequence, reaping a pleasure from its own reflexions which far surpasses what the approbation of mankind can bestow; but timid virtue will frequently be discouraged by this injustice, and rather forego, though with pain, the means of conferring a great benefit, than be exposed to imputations which are humiliating.

Mr. Ellifon felt himself under great obligations to Mrs. Tunstall for the part she had acted; and acknowledged his sense of it to the Doctor in the warmest terms; and to procure a good opportunity of making a more substantial return, desired he would permit him to be godfather to his new born son, though not present on the occasion; as he intended before that time to leave the country, in compliance with the Doctor's advice to change the air, as the most likely means of perfecting his recovery.

Mr. Ellifon designed first to visit his sister, whom he had not seen since he settled in Dorsetshire; and then to perform his promise of revisiting Millennium-hall, which nothing had prevented his doing before, but an unwillingness to leave home, where he thought himself more usefully employed, than he could be in any other place. He set out some days sooner, in order to make his absence at the christening of Dr. Tunstall's child less remarkable. Mr. Ellifon had the pleasure
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of seeing his sister very happily situated ; possessing, as well as deserving, the affection and indulgence of a very good husband, and surrounded by a family of very fine children. The cordial reception he met with there, might have tempted him to make a long stay, if his several duties at home, which must suffer in the performance during his absence, had not determined him to observe exactly the time he had allotted for his tour ; but to render his departure more easy on all sides, he obtained a promise from his sister, and brother-in-law, to return his visit the first favourable opportunity.

He then proceeded to Millennium-hall, and friendship welcomed him to the house, where hospitality had first received him. He was now treated without ceremony ; the politeness of the inhabitants inspiring him with the same ease as if he had been one of the family, a society in which he held it great honour to be included. As he was perfectly acquainted with their charitable institutions, all re-

serve on that subject was now banished, and they frankly acquainted him with their success and improvements, as well as their plans for new charities. Among these, the most considerable, was one chiefly intended for the benefit of those who appear no objects of charity: but these ladies, far from thinking poverty the only evil which christian benevolence should lead us to redress, did not even consider it as the most important. The soul, as the noblest, and most durable part of us, was the chief object of their care and solicitude.

The imprudent, and frequently vicious, course of life, into which too many fall, appeared to them evidently to proceed most commonly from a faulty education, whether public or private, the errors therein being numerous, though different. In regard to both sexes the case seemed much the same, but the education of boys was above their sphere; they aimed no farther than to rectify some of the errors in female education.

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As these ladies had lived long in retirement, and free from crowds and bustle had led a life of reason and virtue, it is not strange that their way of thinking on various subjects should be a little unfashionable; and perhaps it was not more so on any point than on education; which though the most material, was, in their opinions, greatly erroneous; but in general they thought parents more deserving of compassion than censure. They observed that many were incapable of giving their children much education, having received few improvements themselves, either from early instruction, or later voluntary application; bred in ignorance, they had acquired a narrowness of mind, which conceives no more extensive idea of virtue than what serves to secure us from infamy and the rigours of law; insensible to all those various duties, and social good offices, which, though the safety of our persons and reputations do not depend upon them, yet are so essential to the happiness of all those connected with us; for a woman may be a very

disagreeable wife, a tiresome friend, a harsh mistress, and very deficient in the duties of a mother, and yet, according to this narrow way of thinking, be honest, chaste, prudent, and in the common acceptation of the phrase, good natured. To acquit ourselves well in any of these capacities we ought to be thoroughly acquainted with the extent of every virtue, from whence we shall learn, that there is no action so trifling, wherein virtue is not concerned ; or, to speak more properly, that scarcely any action is trifling, since in some way it affects the ease and satisfaction of another ; and if not immediately hurtful, becomes so, by taking up that time and attention, which might be employed either to our own, or some other person's benefit. Thus, those actions which are called totally indifferent, if we consider them properly, we shall see are so far bad, as we waste on them the hours given for better purposes ; for an extensive view of religious or moral duties, will teach us that every action of our lives ought to be useful. Upon these
these

these common, and frequent acts, depends in great measure the happiness of those connected with us. Great injuries or great benefits are seldom in our power; the opportunities for either are few; but by a number of small vexations, we may render a person more miserable than we could by one great injury. There is an elasticity in our spirits, which enables them to rise again after a great and sudden blow, while a frequent repetition of vexations keeps them down, and deprives them of all power of exertion: but a narrow mind sees not the iniquity of such oppression in a right light, because the evils it inflicts are not expressly included either in the prohibitions in the Decalogue or the laws of the land; blind to the spirit of the law, they attend only to the words. Those, therefore, whose ideas are circumscribed within such narrow bounds, are ill qualified to cultivate the minds of their children. But yet it is not from the imbecillity of mothers that children chiefly suffer; there are now few who apply even what talents they have to domestic

duties. Amusement is too often the business of their lives; and in the round of diversions they pursue, their children are sometimes forgotten, but always neglected. If they are admitted into their company, the person whose instructions and conduct should lead them to virtue, whose prudence should warn them against vice, and defend their unexperienced youth from all the dangers to which it is unavoidably exposed, sets them an example of nothing but levity and indiscretion; teaches them by the surest means, example, that dress, cards, and dissipation, are the great business of life; and what reason would lead some of the best disposed almost in infancy to condemn, becomes sanctified by the practice of her whom they know it is their duty to respect.

Some mothers have sense enough to see that the company they keep is not proper for their daughters, but instead of changing their acquaintance, and their way of life on that account, and considering that what will corrupt their children, cannot
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be innocent in themselves, they take another method, and confine their daughters in a nursery, assigning over all maternal care to a governess, who though low in birth, and indigent in circumstances, is supposed equal to a trust, for which few parents, with all the advantages their fortune and station can give them, are sufficiently qualified; and for the poor emolument of a small stipend, she is expected to take that care, which regard for the first and most important duty of life, natural affection, and all the tender ties of maternity, cannot induce the mother to perform. Masters indeed are procured, external accomplishments sometimes are cultivated, and the young ladies may unfortunately excel in a minuet, on the harpsichord, or with a pencil; this I call unfortunate, because it only serves to lay them open to flattery; and vanity destroys what little natural merit remained; for the plant, weak from the barrenness of the soil, and want of cultivation, makes but little resistance. Parents who pique themselves most on the education of their daughters,

daughters, generally produce them into the world, thus provided with every thing that can render it dangerous, without having attempted to fortify their minds against the temptations that await them, or to give them one qualification fit for domestic life: their attention being wholly fixed on externals, while the hearts and understandings of their children are totally neglected; few good or useful principles inculcated, no true knowledge acquired, no new ideas excited. To improve their public appearance being the great object, no domestic qualifications, no amusements for retired leisure are taught them; their pleasures depend wholly on others, and the hours which are not passed in company, become burdened with all the miseries of ignorance and idleness; in these they must languish if debarred of dissipation, as incapable of amusing themselves as of being useful to others. French, and sometimes Italian perhaps, makes a part of their education; but as they generally learn the one out of Novels, and the other chiefly in Pastorals, their hearts acquire

quire corruption and folly, faster than their heads do the languages; and their understandings, instead of being improved, are perverted by their studies.

C H A P. VII.

I Would not have my reader take for granted, that the sentiments with which the last chapter finished, are my own. I have no title to censure the fashionable world in so material a point; but the ladies who gave occasion to the subject, had by superior merit acquired a right of judging for themselves, and might with justice criticize the manners of a world, that would sufficiently make itself amends by despising them, for leading a life so contrary to its most favourite maxims. However, they were so little addicted to censure others, that they would scarcely have said much on the subject, had they not been determined on an attempt to remedy the errors they blamed. An artist may be thought unreasonable that will not allow any one to criticize his works,
who

who cannot excel him in his art; but these ladies had a title even beyond this: that they could have better performed a mother's part they had evidently proved, without having stood in that relation to any one; but they were desirous of shewing to others how to do the same, and of giving even to such mothers as would not themselves undertake the education of their children, an opportunity of having their places better supplied.

I have related their opinions of home education; and they did not think more favourably of the more public methods. Schools appeared to them in general so ill conducted, that they saw no advantage in sending a child thither, except the removing her from the danger of being contaminated by the example of her mother, and her other relations, which in some cases might be desirable. The ignorance of the persons who keep schools, and the great number of scholars received at them; the little time and attention given by the masters; and indeed the impossibility of
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so many children being properly instructed by so few persons, were they sufficiently qualified; made them fear that the scholars learnt more evil and folly of each other, than good from the mistress and teachers. Out of the great numbers of young ladies of their acquaintance educated at boarding-schools, very few had they seen improved by it; to any useful or valuable purpose in life they generally returned as little qualified as the day they were sent to it; their acquisitions seldom extending farther, than a little bad French, a smattering of music, a tolerable minuet, a great deal of low pride, much pertness, intolerable vanity, and some falsehood.

To endeavour to teach the ladies the full extent of maternal duty, and to prevail on them to sacrifice the love of gaiety and dissipation to a due care of their children, they were sensible would prove a fruitless attempt. Some, even in high life, set an example in this particular, from which more effect might naturally be expected

pected than from any verbal arguments; and where they fail, no hope remains. But they imagined it possible to mend public education. With this view they determined to establish several schools, and desired Mr. Ellison would take their plan into consideration, and object to any part that he disapproved. Their scheme was as follows.

Having qualified several young women perfectly well for the purpose, they designed to unite four or five in society, who should take boarders at the usual prices; but never above twenty in number, that they might be able to keep a vigilant watch over them, and instruct them fully. The different genius's of these young women had led them to excel in different talents; one in music, another in drawing, and a third in writing and arithmetic; while another had penetrated more deeply into science; whereby they were enabled, when united, to teach the young ladies committed to their care, every branch of education, except dancing, for which

which alone they would have occasion to seek for foreign assistance. Their patronesses had rendered them thoroughly sensible, that they were not to undertake this office, merely with a view of procuring themselves a subsistence, or even of reaping honour from any shining qualifications they might give their scholars, but as persons who were to render an account at the last day of the manner in which they had executed it; and who were conscious, that since it had pleased God to place them in that situation, it was their duty to act therein like his faithful servants; breeding up those who should be placed under their care, in the manner most pleasing to him; qualifying them, as far as they were able, to perform well the duties of any station to which they should be called. For this purpose their first and chief endeavours were to be directed towards fixing deeply on their minds the great principles of religion, guarding them equally from superstition and fanaticism, as from levity and carelessness in

in so material a point. As one means of arriving at this great end, they were to cultivate the children's understandings, and teach them those languages, the acquisition of which are most desirable, and such polite arts as are considered as accomplishments proper for young women of fashion, whereby they would acquire so many laudable and pleasing ways of amusing themselves, as would secure them against the melancholy necessity of being obliged to seek diversions from abroad. These ladies considered that persons of all ages, but particularly the young, must have amusements, otherwise their spirits will languish, and their minds grow too dull even to perform serious duties with vigour; and thought nothing so likely to preserve them from giddy dissipation, and a mad pursuit after public entertainments, as so enlarging their minds by reason and knowledge, that they might see the futility of idle diversions, and feel unsatisfied with every pleasure which their reason disapproved; and likewise giving them a variety of agreeable employments

employments to amuse their leisure hours at home, which every one who aims at any stable happiness, or at performing well the part of a daughter, wife or mother, should make the principal scene of her pleasures; for we may wildly traverse the whole world in search of happiness, yet shall never attain it but in our own houses, and in the sincere performance of our respective duties.

In consequence of this attention to the improvement of the understandings of these young ladies, care was taken to direct their reading in the most instructive course; to trace out for them a regular series of history; and in every other branch of knowledge, to lead them through the proper gradations with the like regularity; confining them on every subject to the best authors, and not suffering them to fall into that incoherent desultory manner of reading, too usual in the sex, which rather confounds and dissipates, than instructs the mind, and is indeed no better than a serious kind of idleness, productive

tive of little more improvement than more lively sorts of dissipation. With history, geography and chronology were made to go hand in hand ; the less abstruse parts of astronomy, natural philosophy, ethics, and the rational parts of metaphysics, were admitted into their studies.

The second rank of schools which came into the plan these ladies had formed, was chiefly designed for such as had no prospect of considerable fortunes ; and therefore were not entitled to any higher expectations than marrying men in good trades, country gentlemen of small estates, or men in the church, army, or some other employment, which yielding only a life income, disqualified them from getting wives of fortune, on whom they could make no adequate settlement. The accomplishments to be taught at these schools were of a more humble kind than at the former, and a country situation was preferred, that the expences might be lower. Here the children were to learn all branches of œconomy ; writing and arithmetic was particularly attended

tended to ; they were taught to make their own gowns, stays, caps, &c. exercised in cutting out linen, mending it in the best manner, and with the most housewifely contrivance ; to make pastry, cakes, jellies, sweet-meats, &c. distilling, cookery, and every other branch of good housewifery. Music was forbidden, as taking up too much time for persons in a middling station, and as a proficiency in it would prove only a dangerous excellence ; for it might induce a young woman of small fortune to endeavour at mending her circumstances, by performing in public, or at best introduce her into company of a far superior rank, who would think her sufficiently rewarded for the pleasure she gave them by the honour of their acquaintance, though the expences attending it must ruin her fortune ; and as soon as her distresses should be known, her music would lose its charms, and neglect or insult become all her portion. Even drawing was not taught, except where so extraordinary a genius appeared, as gave room to believe it might prove a useful,
and

and profitable art. French was cultivated, as the general use of it gave reason to suppose it might be of service; geography was likewise allowed, because it took little time, could never be hurtful, and rendered reading more instructive. Dancing was of necessity permitted, as it was feared no parent would bear the thought of her daughter's not being taught, what in all probability she esteemed the most necessary part of education. But though the accomplishments of these scholars were circumscribed, no restraints were laid on any thing that could improve their understandings, as good sense and a liberal mind are equally desirable in every situation. Notwithstanding their housewifery employments, they had a good deal of time for reading, and every possible means were taken to render that instructive and improving.

These two classes of schools may appear sufficient, as many will naturally suppose, that persons of an inferior station would educate their daughters themselves; but

this is by no means the case. This worthy society had observed that the lowest shopkeepers in country towns send their daughters to boarding-schools, at so great an expence as renders them as little able to leave their children a subsistence, as those children are to gain one, after having been bred up in idleness and vanity at those seminaries, where little else is taught. These ladies were of opinion that few had so much reason to place their daughters abroad for education as these people, for the business of their shops must frequently deprive them of leisure to look well after their children; but this measure seldom answered any good purpose from the improper conduct of the school-mistresses, who finding their own pride flattered by making their scholars appear considerable, treated them as young ladies; from which the mothers, whose vanity was sure to be at unison with the school-mistresses, felt too much pleasure to disapprove it. This observation occasioned the institution of schools of a third class; entirely designed for people of that

rank. At these, the only part of genteel education taught, was writing and accounts, which were carefully cultivated; with every thing that could qualify them for service, or for being wives to men in small trades. All sorts of needle-work, nothing that tended towards œconomy in their own dress, or that of children, was omitted. In washing, clear-starching, brewing, making of bread, pastry, confectionary, distilling, and cookery, they were instructed. They were made in rotation to do all the business of the house, milk cows, make butter and cheese, and feed poultry. To give them more extensive practice in these things than could otherwise have been afforded them, these schools were placed at the out-skirts of large country towns; needle-work and clear-starching were taken in, at the common prices, because they would not sink the pay for such work as will scarcely produce a maintenance to the performer. But cakes, sweetmeats, and particularly cookery, were there furnished at low rates, in order to bring business enough to keep the

the girls well exercised in them; and in this eating age, there are few towns that are not furnished with at least one feasting alderman, to purchase joyfully, delicacies which his own kitchen will not afford him. By the profits thus made, the school-mistresses were enabled to take the children at a very moderate price. No dancing master was allowed to attend, for though the proper carriage of the person is of some importance to every one, yet it was imagined the care of the mistresses might suffice in that respect; whereas the benefit received from the dancing master would be apt to be over-balanced by the vanity it might inspire. For the same reason, the title of Miss was banished the school, though great civility of behaviour was required; but to preserve this, it is by no means necessary that the children of chandlers and alehouse-keepers should treat each other with the appellations of Misses, and young Ladies; which teaches them to confound the distinction that ought to be kept up between them and their superiors.

In one particular, however, as much care was taken to instruct them as if they were of the highest rank, I mean in the article of religion. They were well taught the fundamentals of Christianity, and the purest and strictest principles of morality were instilled into their minds; but even in this there was some difference made, as the obligation to the duties peculiarly adapted to their stations were particularly inculcated.

When Mr. Ellison had examined the several plans of these various systems of education, he told the ladies that he saw little room to object to any thing therein; but he feared the success of the schools might not prove answerable to what in reason it ought to be; ‘for,’ said he, ‘few people are judges of education; they can see if their daughters dance well, some of them can even discover if they have made any proficiency in music, or talk French fluently; but very small is the number of those who can form any judgment of your more extensive views

in education; ignorant themselves, they will neither comprehend the knowledge their children acquire, nor the uses of it. Many perhaps are conscious that some exterior accomplishments, wherein themselves are deficient, would be desirable acquisitions to their daughters, as tending to render them objects of admiration; but I am apt to believe the greater number are well convinced that in every thing of real importance there is no occasion to excel them; many who can scarcely hobble a minuet, and do not know a note of music, may wish to see their daughters dance with grace, and perform well on the harpsichord; but will not allow they can be more prudent, more wise, or more moral than themselves, though they scarcely know how to avoid infamy, or to govern their families; and conceive that morality extends no farther than will just keep them out of the reach of penal laws. Others will be afraid their children's spirits should be depressed, or their understandings worn out by too much study; the

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health

‘ health of some will be esteemed too delicate, and because it is not sufficient
‘ that the body shall often destroy the soul,
‘ after we are arrived at maturity, they
‘ are resolved that even in infancy it shall
‘ begin to render us fools. To others
‘ your plan will appear erroneous as far as
‘ it is new, and its greatest merits will be
‘ the parts most objected to; for though
‘ novelty in trifles seldom fails of pleasing,
‘ in affairs of importance it alarms; and
‘ the things that are most worth improving upon, and most want it, are alone
‘ condemned by the bulk of mankind to
‘ remain in their original imperfection.
‘ I wish envy does not still prove a greater
‘ impediment to your success than even all
‘ I have yet mentioned; among those who
‘ perceive the excellence of your scheme,
‘ I fear the greater part will prove envious
‘ of the merit of it, and from that motive oppose, what their own hearts will
‘ tell them is superior to their views, or
‘ above their power.’

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‘ By our retired way of life’ (replied Mrs. Morgan) ‘ we are grown such Utopians, that what you urge might have appeared very strange to us, if we had not heard the same observations from another friend; and though we are apt to forget the faults and follies of mankind, in part perhaps voluntarily, as too much reflexion upon them is dangerous to one’s benevolence; and in part necessarily, from the little connexion we have for many years had with the multitude; yet our memories are not so defective, but when truths of this kind are presented to us, our minds acquiesce in the probability; therefore we are prepared for all the discouragement our schemes can encounter; and have endeavoured to strengthen the young undertakers against it, lest their industry, and application to perform well their parts, may be damped by the smallness of their success; we can preserve them from suffering any thing thereby beyond mental mortification, as a deficiency in profit can with ease be supplied by us, who

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‘ have

‘ have set aside a fund for that purpose.
‘ I think our views cannot be entirely
‘ frustrated, our schools may expect, with-
‘ out any acknowledged superiority of me-
‘ rit, to have some small share, at least,
‘ of the great numbers of children de-
‘ stined to a public education, and we
‘ would not wish them to have many at a
‘ time. These we shall have the satisfac-
‘ tion of knowing are educated in a man-
‘ ner to render themselves, and all con-
‘ nected with them, happy, though their
‘ parents may not perceive from whence
‘ they have obtained their advantages;
‘ a point of no importance either to them
‘ or us. Chance will send some scholars;
‘ it is our business, as well as the concern
‘ of those who are to live thereby, to turn
‘ that chance to the benefit of such as are
‘ under their care.

‘ We might have secured to our young
‘ women as many scholars as they would
‘ have received, by fixing a price for their
‘ board considerably lower than other
‘ schools, and should with pleasure have
‘ appropriated a yearly sum towards their
‘ main-

' maintenance, as we think that cultivat-
 ' ing the minds of the rich is almost as
 ' charitable an action as nourishing the
 ' bodies of the poor; but we could nei-
 ' ther have afforded a sufficient sum, or
 ' found a sufficient number of well quali-
 ' fied instructors, to have accommodated
 ' all who have recourse to school educa-
 ' tion, therefore other schools would still
 ' have been wanted; and to secure to some
 ' young persons the advantages we think
 ' may be given them by proper instruction,
 ' we should by lowering the price of educa-
 ' tion, have ruined all who now live by that
 ' profession, and whose pay is certainly
 ' short of their deserts, if they acquit
 ' themselves as they ought; and indeed,
 ' all respect to their qualifications out of
 ' the case, yields them but just a mainte-
 ' nance, and that very laboriously obtain-
 ' ed. You will not think, by what I have
 ' said, I shew a disposition to entertain
 ' too favourable an opinion of the world,
 ' whatever I may before have hinted to
 ' that purpose, for it is a severe reflexion
 ' on mankind to say, that money is a con-
 N 5 sideration

‘ fideration that can influence people of
‘ fortune in fo important a point as the
‘ education of their children, wherein of
‘ all others they fhould not be parfimo-
‘ nious; but frequently there is nothing
‘ in which they fo willingly act the œco-
‘ nomift; and though fhame will not fuffer
‘ them to deny giving the ufual accom-
‘ plifhments, yet they are very defirous to
‘ do it at as cheap a rate as poffible, and
‘ little concerned though it is ill perform-
‘ ed, if the name of having proper maf-
‘ ters does but fave their credit, or if they
‘ can but find places where they can de-
‘ cently board their children, to remove
‘ from themfelves the trouble of parental
‘ care.’

Mr. Ellifon allowed that he feared Mrs. Morgan’s reflexions were but too juft, and told her, that, though he had declared the difcouragements he thought their ufe-ful and benevolent plan might at firft meet with, yet he was not fo pofitive in his opinion, but that he begged ſhe would promife to admit three young ladies of his

acquaintance into one of the schools of the highest class, being unwilling to delay his application, lest, contrary to his apprehensions, they might be immediately filled; and he had determined on the first mention of their plan to send Miss Granthams thither.

His request we may suppose was easily granted; for as these ladies had no greater desire than to find young persons to reap the benefit of their intentions, it was as agreeable to them as to himself; and they even offered to pay for an equal number, if he knew any children of fashion, whose parents could not afford them an education adequate to their birth and future fortunes; observing to him, that to accept this offer would not be putting them to expence, as they did not see much chance for the school's bringing in, for some years, a sufficient income both to defray the charges, and properly reward the school-mistresses; consequently some assistance from them would be necessary.

**THE
HISTORY
OF
Sir GEORGE ELLISON.**

BOOK III. CHAP. I.

WHILE Mr. Ellison remained at Millennium-Hall, he made frequent visits to the two societies, composed of the persons those ladies had removed from a state of mortifying dependance; and received great pleasure from seeing their happiness. Observing to them one day how compleat their satisfaction appeared, one of the ladies said to him, How is it possible it should be otherwise, if

‘ if our dispositions are not uncommonly
‘ prone to discontent and ingratitude !
‘ We enjoy not only every circumstance
‘ of comfort, but every rational pleasure.
‘ All the benefits society can afford are
‘ within our reach ; all that competence
‘ can yield is ours ; we have every thing
‘ that attends plentiful possessions, but the
‘ trouble of taking care of them. We are
‘ indeed dependent, but reflexion only can
‘ make us sensible of it ; here dependance
‘ exists without those chains and fetters
‘ which render it more galling than the
‘ oppressions of the most indigent, but
‘ free, poverty. When we see our bene-
‘ factresses feel such true joy in bestowing,
‘ it would be ingratitude even to wish not
‘ to receive at their hands ; in accepting
‘ their bounty, we seem to confer an ob-
‘ ligation, and do in reality confer a be-
‘ nefit, by being the cause of so much re-
‘ fined pleasure to them. This is the most
‘ exalted part of their bounty ; their wealth
‘ gives us ease and plenty, but it is their
‘ generous noble way of bestowing, that
‘ gives us happiness. Nor does this alone
‘ constitute

‘ constitute our felicity; it is still height-
‘ ened by comparing our present situation
‘ with the past. Light appears with ad-
‘ ditional brightness when set off by shade:
‘ Great as their generosity is, it still rises
‘ in our opinions, when we reflect on the
‘ painful, I might say loathsome depen-
‘ dence, from which it rescued many of
‘ us.’

Mr. Ellifson was not naturally curious, but so baneful is idleness, that having nothing else to do, he felt some inclination that the leisure the afternoon afforded them should be filled up, with an account of the past lives of those who seemed to make the best use of the remembrance of them, by turning former mortifications into an increase of present happiness: He therefore answered what this lady, by name Mrs. Alton, had said, in such a manner as drew her almost insensibly into giving a pretty full detail.

‘ My father,’ said she, ‘ though he outliv-
‘ ed my mother 4 years, died when I was but
‘ eighteen

‘ eighteen years old. As his fortune was
‘ good, I was well educated ; for though
‘ fashionable accomplishments were not
‘ neglected, I was bred to a proper share
‘ of good housewifery. I had taken care
‘ of my father’s family from the time of
‘ my mother’s death, her infirm state of
‘ health having induced her to qualify me
‘ for that office, before the usual age for
‘ such occupations. I was therefore able
‘ to govern a house, but had little chance
‘ to have a house to govern ; for at my
‘ father’s decease, I learnt that his whole
‘ estate was entailed on my brother ; it
‘ had not been in his power to charge it
‘ with any fortune for me, and, as he had
‘ lived to the full of his income, I was
‘ left entirely to my brother’s generosity.
‘ This piece of information shocked me
‘ extremely, although I loved my brother
‘ well enough, to be contented to accept
‘ as an obligation, a provision to which
‘ nature seemed to give me a right ; and
‘ had so good an opinion of him, that I
‘ did not doubt of his providing properly
‘ for me, were he left to himself ; but, un-
‘ fortunately

‘ fortunately for me, he had married a
‘ young woman of low birth, though to-
‘ lerable fortune, of whom he was so
‘ fond, that I was sensible my dependance
‘ must be rather on her than him ; and
‘ I was not sufficiently acquainted with
‘ her disposition, to know what expecta-
‘ tions to form in that respect. My bro-
‘ ther, however, judged that the concern
‘ I was under for the loss of my father,
‘ must make any additional anxiety on
‘ my own account, too heavy a weight on
‘ my spirits, for the strongest constitution
‘ to support unhurt, and therefore gave
‘ me many kind appearances of his gene-
‘ rous intentions towards me, and took
‘ me home to his house, where I was well
‘ received by my sister-in-law, to whom
‘ I endeavoured to render myself useful,
‘ as well as agreeable.

‘ In this view, I shewed a readiness to
‘ assist her in the oeconomy of her family,
‘ and the care of her children; no unaccep-
‘ table services, as her mean education had
‘ rendered

' rendered her but ill qualified for either ;
 ' she knew not how to govern her servants
 ' with that composure of temper and stea-
 ' diness of conduct, which commands re-
 ' spect, and therefore had been troubled
 ' with their negligence or insolence ; and
 ' as for her children, she was capable of
 ' giving them but little instruction ; work-
 ' ing tolerably with her needle being the
 ' utmost extent of her knowledge. As
 ' almost a continual pregnancy gave her
 ' an excuse for indolence, I soon found
 ' my desire of serving her would bring a
 ' burdensome office upon me, for she con-
 ' stituted me house-keeper, and soon after
 ' nurse ; and to shew me that my services
 ' were necessary, lessened the number of her
 ' maid servants, frequently saying, " That
 ' as her's was an increasing family, she
 ' could not afford any other addition but
 ' that of children." ' On the same prin-
 ' ciple of oeconomy, finding I understood
 ' a good deal of cookery, she changed her
 ' cook for a girl, who could not perform
 ' the easiest things without direction ; and
 ' referred

referred her to me for the requisite assistance; thereby introducing me into a third office, and that a very laborious one, as my attendance in the kitchen could seldom be dispensed with for the greatest part of the morning.

I was in no danger of falling into idleness, my time being well filled up. My first business was to dress the children, and get them their breakfasts; I was then to see the same meal prepared for their parents, and myself. The parts of house-keeper and cook would have sufficiently employed the rest of the morning, but that of nurse was added to it; for the three eldest children were generally with me the whole time, to my great interruption, and their danger, as a kitchen is no safe place at that age; and indeed I was forced to keep a very strict attention to save them from scalding, burning, or some other accident of the like nature; but their mother complained they were too noisy for her, which

in

‘ in some degree might be true, consi-
 ‘ dering her frequent indisposition ; but
 ‘ was magnified by her knowing no means
 ‘ of assuming gentility but that of appear-
 ‘ ing sick, which led her to add much
 ‘ pretence to a little reality.

‘ As it would not have been decent to
 ‘ have reduced me to the appearance of a
 ‘ servant, I was expected to make one at
 ‘ the dinner I had dressed ; and therefore
 ‘ was obliged, when we had company,
 ‘ which was frequent, to huddle on my
 ‘ cloaths in the little intervals the office
 ‘ of cook would allow me ; and always to
 ‘ take the same opportunities to new
 ‘ dress the children, who were sure to be
 ‘ soon dirtied by the place they inhabit-
 ‘ ed.

‘ The afternoon seldom brought me more
 ‘ leisure, for I was then to teach the chil-
 ‘ dren to read, to walk out with them, mend
 ‘ theirs and the family linen, till it was
 ‘ time to get them their suppers, and put
 ‘ them to bed. Though I had always
 ‘ been

‘ been used to business, yet my strength
‘ was not equal to the fatigue I under-
‘ went, and I felt bad effects from it ; but
‘ I bore them with tolerable content, while
‘ my sister seemed well pleased with my
‘ services. I did not long enjoy this gra-
‘ tification. As my brother was a great
‘ sportsman, while the season continued
‘ favourable to field amusements, he spent
‘ a very small part of the day in the house,
‘ therefore was ignorant of my various
‘ avocations ; but when frequent inter-
‘ ruptions to these entertainments occa-
‘ sioned his living more at home, he per-
‘ ceived how diligently, I may say labori-
‘ ously, I was employed in his service, and
‘ expressed some unwillingness to give me
‘ so much trouble ; at the same time com-
‘ plimenting me on the manner in which
‘ I acquitted myself ; observing how much
‘ the children were improved by my care,
‘ how well his table was ordered, and
‘ how quiet his family ; asking me, by
‘ what art I managed the servants, to
‘ make them do their duty so well and so
‘ readily,

‘ readily, in a country where they were in
 ‘ general so idle and insolent, that it was
 ‘ scarcely possible to bear with them for a
 ‘ quarter of a year together; (for such he
 ‘ imagined the case, because his wife had
 ‘ seldom kept one two months,) and still
 ‘ more unfortunately made me a present
 ‘ of a few guineas, which by that time were
 ‘ become highly necessary; telling me,
 ‘ that the obligations he and his wife
 ‘ had to me deserved an earlier ac-
 ‘ knowledgment, but he had really till
 ‘ that moment forgot how much occasion
 ‘ I might have for such a supply.

‘ From the first period of his conver-
 ‘ sation, my sister began to redden, but the
 ‘ conclusion compleatly provoked her.
 ‘ She was glad of my services, but so far
 ‘ from chusing to acknowledge herself
 ‘ obliged to me, she was desirous I should
 ‘ think they were but a very small return
 ‘ for the support I received from her
 ‘ and my brother; and without leaving
 ‘ me time to express the pleasure I felt
 ‘ from

‘ from his approbation, she said with some
‘ sharpness, that he was wonderfully ten-
‘ der of me, in thinking I had so much
‘ trouble, strong and healthy as I was, in
‘ doing what she, with her unfortunate
‘ delicacy of constitution, had done for
‘ so many years, without exciting in him
‘ any of those apprehensions; any more
‘ than that great admiration he expressed,
‘ as if there was any such great matter in
‘ keeping a family in order, when it was
‘ once put into a right way; and she who
‘ had had all the trouble of regulating it,
‘ to be sure, had no merit; no, it was all
‘ to be attributed to me, who had only
‘ gone on in the way she had planned out
‘ for me, a thing any girl of twelve years
‘ old might do: and indeed she thought
‘ herself very unlucky in being prevented
‘ by ill health from doing the whole her-
‘ self, as a house could never be well ma-
‘ naged but by the mistress of it; but
‘ her too delicate constitution obliged
‘ her to submit to the inconveniences that
‘ naturally arise from the want of a mo-
‘ ther’s and a mistresses eye.

‘ My

‘ My brother, who feared as well as
 ‘ loved her, was hurt at finding he had
 ‘ offended so unintentionally ; and in his
 ‘ confusion, by way of excusing himself,
 ‘ replied, that he had no thought of draw-
 ‘ ing any comparison between us, he ne-
 ‘ ver entertained the least doubt of her
 ‘ skill in managing her family ; what he
 ‘ had said of the advantages arising from
 ‘ my care, only alluded to those things
 ‘ which had before been in the hands of a
 ‘ house-keeper and nurse, by no means
 ‘ to any particulars wherein I might sup-
 ‘ ply her place.

‘ If I did not feel myself extremely
 ‘ flattered by being told that I excelled
 ‘ two of his menial servants, his answer
 ‘ was not more pleasing to my sister, who
 ‘ did not much like to have it observed
 ‘ that I performed the office of two of
 ‘ them, beside various other things that
 ‘ would not have been expected from per-
 ‘ sons of their education, as it did not
 ‘ seem quite agreeable to the treatment
 ‘ due to a sister ; she therefore dropt some
 ‘ hints

‘ hints how necessary it was, when new
‘ expences occurred, to retrench in others;
‘ complained of the inconvenience of
‘ lessening the number of servants, and
‘ how hard it was to be forced to undergo
‘ it, and yet to be out of pocket, observ-
‘ ing that the board of people who eat in
‘ the kitchen cost little, and that servants
‘ wages were small in comparison of what
‘ people might lavish away in presents.

‘ I felt myself so nettled at these unge-
‘ nerous hints, that I feared I might not
‘ continue mistress of my temper, and
‘ therefore thought it advisable to retire.
‘ I was never inclined to draw an exact
‘ balance between obligations conferred
‘ and repaid; a person must be of a for-
‘ did temper who can keep an account of
‘ debtor and creditor in generosity; but
‘ yet I could not refrain from making some
‘ little degree of comparison, which shew-
‘ ed me that my services deserved as pay-
‘ ment from my brother, what my rela-
‘ tionship to him might alone sufficiently
‘ entitle me to. I wished to make all the
‘ return

' return in my power for what he should
 ' be pleased to do for me; but to be made
 ' a slave, and yet reproached as a burden,
 ' was more than I could well bear. Since
 ' I was doomed to do the office of a ser-
 ' vant, I only desired to be thought to de-
 ' serve my wages; and now felt all the
 ' bitterness of my situation, which cost
 ' me some tears, and many heart-felt
 ' pains, that I endeavoured to conceal.

' From the behaviour of my brother and
 ' sister at supper, which assembled us about
 ' two hours after I had left them, I per-
 ' ceived the conversation had continued
 ' after I withdrew; they were both in but
 ' indifferent temper; silence and sullenness
 ' appeared in her, vexation and fear in
 ' him; she treated me with formality, and
 ' he with coldness; being afraid, as I
 ' guessed, to exasperate her if he shewed
 ' any thing like affection to me. It is
 ' scarcely possible for any one to be in a
 ' more disagreeable situation; my heart
 ' had not lost all its resentment; but my

* indignation for my sister's treatment of
* me, was not greater than my concern
* for the uneasiness my brother visibly suf-
* fered, of which I was, though innocently
* on my part, the cause; and I should
* have found it impossible to conceal my
* sensations, had I not been employed in
* mending one of the children's frocks,
* which gave me an excuse for paying less
* seeming attention to the company,
* though in reality they engaged all my
* thoughts.

* The consequences of this quarrel did
* not end with the evening. My sister,
* who had fancied herself lowered in her
* importance by the merits my brother
* attributed to me, thought she might raise
* her dignity in the house without giving
* herself the trouble of re-assuming the
* care of it; and for that purpose deter-
* mined to be more particular in her direc-
* tions; accordingly from that time she
* interrupted me in whatever I was doing;
* if I was dressing the children, she would
* order me first to hear them read; if, on
* the

'the contrary, they were reading to me,
 'I must just then make a pye: she could
 'not indeed find more business for me than
 'I had executed before she had taken up
 'this resolution, but by not suffering me
 'to perform it in the same regular method,
 'I lived in a continual hurry, doing all
 'out of season; and seldom being per-
 'mitted to finish at once the thing I was
 'about; it required double the time, and
 'at last was not so well done. She like-
 'wise took occasion to find fault with
 'every performance, to shew her superior
 'judgment; though it frequently failed
 'of the designed effect, as it was gene-
 'rally so causeless, that every one saw her
 'motive; and sometimes she erred so to-
 'tally, as to blame where most commen-
 'dation was due. She also was fond of
 'contradicting every order my offices ob-
 'liged me to give the servants; and did
 'all in her power to prevent them or the
 'children from paying me the least re-
 'spect, or shewing any obedience to my
 'directions; but in these particulars I
 'fortunately did not suffer: the former had

‘ enjoyed so much more ease and peace
‘ from the time I was made house-keeper
‘ than they had done before, that they
‘ were, in spite of her endeavours, suf-
‘ ficiently observant, from a fear lest out
‘ of disgust I might relinquish my charge;
‘ and the most difficult part of my task
‘ was to make them properly respectful to
‘ her, who they had before held cheap
‘ for her ignorance in family affairs, and
‘ now despised for her low jealousy of me,
‘ which I would not suffer them to ima-
‘ gine I perceived; and by the respect I
‘ shewed her, endeavoured to teach them
‘ what was necessary on their part.

‘ I was not less fortunate as to the chil-
‘ dren. The nurse whom I succeeded was
‘ very ill-tempered, and they had suffer-
‘ ed a great deal from her, as their mo-
‘ ther had left them totally to her care;
‘ the comparison therefore between us had
‘ rendered me very welcome to them, and
‘ they were fonder of me than of their
‘ parents. The best obedience springs
‘ from love; this they readily paid me,
‘ and

' and I could desire no more. They were
 ' indeed fine children, both in person and
 ' disposition, and I was truly fond of them ;
 ' they were my best consolation under the
 ' various vexations I suffered ; and though
 ' they increased my business, yet they re-
 ' paid me by rendering it agreeable. But
 ' this was at length made the subject of
 ' severe mortifications ; my sister grew en-
 ' vious of the pleasure she saw I took in
 ' them, and jealous of their affection for
 ' me, which her pride considered as an
 ' affront to herself, and every mark of
 ' regard or tenderness they shewed me,
 ' brought severe chidings, and sometimes
 ' punishments on them ; though seeming-
 ' ly inflicted for other causes, imaginary
 ' offences, which her invention suggested
 ' as an excuse ; and became much more
 ' frequent from perceiving that she there-
 ' by most sensibly hurt me.

' My abode at my brother's now became
 ' very irksome ; he, indeed, privately was
 ' more generous to me than I wished, but
 ' still it was only in presents, which put

me in affluence in the state I was in; but afforded me no means of living independent, as the utmost I could save would not have amounted to a sum sufficient to maintain me, even if I lived there to old age. What comfort could affluence yield me while I was deprived of ease and quiet! I was sensible I did great service to my brother and sister in the economy of their family, but this did not recompence them for the uneasiness I innocently occasioned; as her temper would not suffer him to enjoy peace while she was out of humour. The children, no doubt, received improvement from my care, but this part might certainly be more judiciously performed by some other person, more completely qualified, without exposing them to the treatment they received on my account. Thus I saw that I rather troubled, than increased the happiness of those for whom I sacrificed my own; which, after a trial of between three and four years, I represented to my brother, and intreated him to permit me to leave his

for
A O

his family; only begging him to secure to me even less than I then received from his generosity; being determined to live on whatsoever sum he should allow me.

My brother seemed to think my request not unreasonable, and gave me hopes he might grant it; but I found I durst come to no resolution without consulting my sister, and she received it less favourably. Some natures take pleasure in making others unhappy; I would not be so uncharitable as to say this was absolutely the case with her, but if it was no part of her motive for chusing to detain me, she had certainly a very great regard for her pecuniary interest, to which she thought my presence was of use. I was kept in suspense above half a year, my brother finding pretences to delay his denial; till at last, my solicitations for an explicit answer grew so importunate, that he told me in very kind and civil terms, he could not part with me; talked of the use I was

of to his children and family; and endeavoured, with no small uneasiness and confusion, to varnish over his unkind refusal. I pitied his weakness, by which he was in many respects a sufferer as well as myself, but severely felt the cruelty of this proceeding. It almost drove me into despair; my present situation appeared the more irksome for the hopes I had entertained of being freed from it; and unable to support the thought of a bondage for life, I determined to spend as little upon myself as possible, laying up as great a share as I could of what my brother gave me; and as soon as I had accumulated the small sum of two hundred pounds, to leave them, and seek a lodging in a cottage in some cheap place, at the hazard of disobliging my brother, and never receiving any farther tokens of his favour.

I suppose, in the altercations between my brother and sister, he had expressed some dissatisfaction at her treatment of me; for after this time she was much
civiller

‘ civiller to me before him, but I suffered
‘ the more for it in his absence, for she
‘ then made herself full amends for the
‘ restraint his presence laid upon her; and
‘ by accident I discovered that she endea-
‘ voured, by every means her malice
‘ could suggest, to injure me in his opi-
‘ nion; and though, I believe, she was
‘ not able to make any lasting impression
‘ on his mind to my disadvantage, yet she
‘ frequently succeeded so far as to put
‘ him out of temper for a time, and there-
‘ by to subject me to new vexations.

‘ I had passed near seven years in this
‘ situation, and had not compleated the
‘ sum which I considered as the ransom
‘ that was to procure my enfranchisement,
‘ when I was told of this establishment,
‘ then just instituted. I received the ac-
‘ count of it with a joy not to be conceiv-
‘ ed by any one, who has not been as se-
‘ vere a sufferer from dependance. Hope
‘ and distress gave me courage: I wrote
‘ a full description of my situation to our
‘ patronesses, referring them to all the

gentlemen and ladies in the neighbourhood, for a confirmation of the truth of my representation, and for my character. Herein I ran no hazard, I had the good fortune to be a favourite with our neighbours, and the transactions in neighbouring families are too well known to each other, for my situation to be any secret.

When the happy signification of my acceptance reached me, I summoned all my courage, and acquainted my brother and sister with my resolution; who were exceedingly enraged at my disgracing them, by entering a charitable foundation. I frankly told them I thought myself a proper object for it; that while I suffered the worst evils that could attend poverty, I did not feel them at all alleviated, by reflecting that my father had enjoyed a good fortune, and my nearest relations were rich. I set out the next morning for this place, without any damp to my joy, but the pain I felt at parting with my nieces, who took leave

of me with many tears. As soon as I got here, I wrote to both my brother and sister, in order to pacify them, as I do not love to be at variance with any one, especially with such near relations; in this I succeeded pretty well, and we now correspond on good terms; and my nieces are likewise permitted to keep up an intercourse with me, from which I receive sincere pleasure.

I have great cause to rejoice that my brother did not accept my former proposal, as the best I could have hoped from it was quiet, accompanied with the dullest solitude; deprived of the gratifications arising from friendship and conversation, which I here enjoy with the addition of every blessing in life; with all things, in short, that can give pleasure to the mind, or mend the heart. Surely few have had equal reason to be grateful.

CHAP. II.

A Nother of the society replied, ' I do
' not wonder, Mrs. Alton, you feel so
' much gratitude to our patronesses ; to be
' rescued from the treatment you received
' from those whose duty it was to promote
' your happiness, is sufficient to excite it ;
' but as I do not think I have less reason,
' therefore I will not allow that my sen-
' sations fall short of yours. I have in-
' deed little to complain of beside mental
' sufferings, and such as I fear few in my
' late situation are exempt from.

' My father was raised to almost the
' highest dignity in the church ; his alli-
' ance to some powerful families having
' gone as far towards procuring him a
' bishopric, as his own merit ; which,
' however, was such as did honour to those
' through whose interest he was promoted.
' But he was preferred too late in life to
' enjoy it long, or to provide for the in-
' dependance of his family. His rank

' re,

‘ required him to live in some degree of
 ‘ dignity, which frustrated his earnest de-
 ‘ sire of saving fortunes for his children ;
 ‘ who at his death, after all his effects
 ‘ were sold and divided, found their whole
 ‘ inheritance amounted to but four hun-
 ‘ dred pounds each. I was the only daugh-
 ‘ ter, and being rendered by my sex less
 ‘ capable of getting a livelihood than my
 ‘ brothers, was in the most distressed si-
 ‘ tuation, for my father had been able
 ‘ during his life to advance them so far in
 ‘ the world, as to set them above necessity,
 ‘ though they fell far short of affluence.’

‘ My mother had been dead many
 ‘ years, and I found myself in so melan-
 ‘ choly a state, that I was glad to accept
 ‘ the invitation of an old intimate of, and
 ‘ relation to our family, and accordingly
 ‘ went to her as soon as our affairs were
 ‘ settled.

‘ This good lady, Mrs. Smyth by name,
 ‘ professed great regard for me on my
 ‘ own account, as well as on that of my
 ‘ pa-

parents, and assured me I should always
 be welcome to remain with her, which
 at that time was no small revival to my
 spirits. She lived in considerable figure,
 and kept a great deal of company, a
 circumstance at first not disagreeable,
 but I afterwards found great inconveni-
 encies arise from it. Mrs. Smyth did not
 chuse to maintain an useless person in her
 house, therefore expected me to do every
 trifling thing that no one else was ready
 to perform, which really proved no small
 business, but by no means irksome to
 me, for I should have obliged her with
 joy, had she required nothing more dif-
 ficult from me; but this was not the case,
 I soon found I had a most odious task to
 perform, which was that of flatterer;
 and as I acquitted myself but ill, she
 would frequently, by opposite questions,
 reduce me either to give the lie to my
 own conscience, or put an absolute af-
 front on her vanity. She would on all
 occasions ask my opinion, an honour
 which like many others was very burden-
 some,

‘ some, since her only view was to have
‘ her intentions commended ; if I expressed
‘ sentiments contrary to her’s, it excited
‘ her indignation, and she would expatiate
‘ on the odiousness of a contradicting spi-
‘ rit ; hint that conceit and obstinacy ne-
‘ ver failed making people disagreeable,
‘ as they led them to oppose every opinion
‘ but their own, and to think none wise
‘ but themselves. It would have been to
‘ little purpose to have told her, that I was
‘ so unwilling to contradict her, that the
‘ greatest favour she could do me, was
‘ not to ask my opinion ; for though be-
‘ lying my sentiments was very painful to
‘ me, yet I was not such a knight errant
‘ in the cause of truth, as officiously to en-
‘ deavour to confute any of her errors ; I
‘ only desired leave to be silent, sensible
‘ that no opposition from me could be of
‘ any weight. I found the best method
‘ was to acquiesce in my condemnation,
‘ suffer myself to be declared a lover of
‘ contradiction, opinative, conceited, and
‘ various other things, till her resentment
‘ had

‘ had found sufficient vent; and then, as
‘ in case of other storms, a calm would
‘ perhaps succeed. But I had still harder tri-
‘ als in the same way; if in company any
‘ one differed from her in opinion, or in
‘ the relation of a fact, she would apply
‘ to me to assist her in defending the
‘ one, or to corroborate the other; either
‘ of which perhaps I could not do without
‘ a manifest breach of veracity; yet to
‘ have dissented before company, would
‘ never have been forgiven me, and I con-
‘ fess I had not courage to do it. Thus
‘ I became in time called upon to con-
‘ firm every error, and bear witness to
‘ every blunder she made; though if she
‘ had observed me, she would have per-
‘ ceived it was little to her purpose, as the
‘ confusion visible in my countenance,
‘ when I could not evade giving a direct
‘ answer, convicted me of falsehood; which
‘ was so obvious to others, that I have seen
‘ the greatest part of the company smile
‘ at my distress, while, perhaps, only one
‘ or two had humanity enough to pity
‘ me, and to endeavour my relief by an
‘ inter-

‘ interruption, of which I gladly took advantage. The mean part I acted on these occasions might justly have rendered me contemptible, if people had not had good nature enough to excuse it, by considering how dangerous it was for me to oppose a woman, who could not support the least contradiction even from her superiors.

‘ Disagreeable as this blind obsequiousness was to me, yet I believe I should have continued with Mrs. Smyth, as my surest resource, if I could possibly have afforded the expence ; but that I found was not to be defrayed without gradually wasting my very small fortune. She gave me to understand that she expected me to be always well dressed, that my appearance might not disgrace her. I could not avoid going sometimes abroad ; she kept no equipage, yet would not suffer me to walk, because it was not proper a young person who lived with her should appear in so ungenteel a light. If her card party was deficient in number,

ber, I was required to play, an expence
my pocket could not possibly support.
I believe her natural disposition, which
was by no means ungenerous, would
have inclined her to have made these
things more easy to me, if she had not
been much streightned in circumstances;
but vanity led her to spend so very great
a part of her fortune, in the articles that
raised her figure in the world, that she
could scarcely allow herself the necessa-
ries of life, and was really destitute of
the conveniencies, which people possess-
ed of not a sixth part of her fortune en-
joy: I could not expect that a person,
who sacrificed her own ease to vanity,
should make it submit to my conveni-
ence, therefore had nothing to complain
of; yet after having spent one quarter
of my pittance, which with the ut-
most oeconomy had lasted me little more
than three years, I saw myself under a
necessity of altering my plan of life;
though I was at a loss what course to
take. In this dilemma I applied to one
Mrs. Mayer for her advice, as she was
not

‘ not only a woman of sense, but had shewn
‘ me particular attention, and professed
‘ no small regard for me ; nor do I mean
‘ by the word *professed*, to intimate that it
‘ was only profession ; I could not doubt
‘ but I had a good share in her affection,
‘ which excited still more than an equal
‘ return in me.

‘ Mrs. Mayer very nobly desired me to
‘ perplex myself no farther with the vari-
‘ ous schemes I had formed, but to come
‘ to her ; with whom I should find none
‘ of the inconveniencies that obliged me
‘ to leave Mrs. Smyth, as her large in-
‘ come gave her the power of being use-
‘ ful to her friends, which was her favour-
‘ ite pleasure. I felt some reluctance at
‘ accepting so plain an offer of pecuni-
‘ ary favours ; it was exposing myself to
‘ receive obligations for which it would
‘ never be in my power to make a pro-
‘ per return. But my affection for Mrs.
‘ Mayer inclined me to think no situation
‘ could be so agreeable as living with her ;
‘ I took my heart to task for its reluctance,
‘ and

‘ and considered it at the result of pride.
‘ What else could make me unwilling to
‘ receive obligations that I could not re-
‘ pay, when by accepting them I should
‘ give the highest pleasure to my bene-
‘ factress. The best return that can be
‘ made, (said I to myself) is grateful af-
‘ fection : a sincere and tender attachment
‘ may afford her a gratification, which no
‘ pecuniary acknowledgement could give
‘ to one as rich in generosity as in for-
‘ tune ; pride alone can make we wish to
‘ put myself on an equality with her ;
‘ and in happiness I must be a loser there-
‘ by, for what connection can be so deli-
‘ cate as ours ; I must always behold her
‘ as one to whom I am indebted for a thou-
‘ sand comforts, as my guardian angel,
‘ who protects me from various evils, and
‘ showers down blessings upon me ; every
‘ pleasure I enjoy will lead my thoughts
‘ to her with tender gratitude. She will
‘ look on me as one made happy by her
‘ bounty, and feel an additional com-
‘ placency from the pleasing reflexions
‘ she will always be led thereby to make

‘ on

‘ on her laudable beneficence. With this
‘ agreeable prospect before me, I told
‘ Mrs. Smyth how entirely the smallness
‘ of my fortune put it out of my power
‘ to continue with her, expressing at the
‘ same time the gratitude due for the
‘ goodness she had shewn me.

‘ Mrs. Smyth easily comprehended the
‘ justness of my objection, and not be-
‘ ing able to remove it, kindly approved
‘ my design of leaving her ; wishing she
‘ had it in her power to make a continu-
‘ ance in her family convenient to me ;
‘ and assuring me I should always be wel-
‘ come to her. So kind a behaviour com-
‘ pleated the satisfaction with which I
‘ went to Mrs. Mayer, who received me
‘ in the most generous and affectionate
‘ manner, and for some time, every day
‘ brought me fresh motives for tender gra-
‘ titude. But the bounty which I ima-
‘ gined flowed so freely on my first going
‘ thither, from her having observed that
‘ I really stood in some need of it, became
‘ painful by its continuance. What I ab-
‘ solutely

• solutely wanted I received with pleasure,
 • knowing that she must enjoy a rational sa-
 • tisfaction by the relief she gave me ; but
 • in a little time I found myself oppressed
 • with presents, which would have been
 • proper ornaments to a woman of for-
 • tune, but were little suitable to my cir-
 • cumstances, unnecessary in my situation,
 • and made me feel myself a burden on
 • her generosity. I endeavoured as much
 • as possible to restrain her hand, but found
 • it more easy to offend her by the at-
 • tempt, than to render it effectual. She
 • persisted in her too lavish bounty, and
 • insisted in so peremptory a manner on
 • my acceptance, that a refusal would have
 • been an affront.

• This I believe is no common com-
 • plaint, and perhaps, will not appear
 • to you a very heavy grievance ; at first
 • I thought it so on no other account
 • than as it rendered me more expensive
 • to her than I wished ; but in a short
 • time I had additional reasons to la-
 • ment it. Strong passions rendered her
 • temper

temper various and uncertain, and when she was out of humour, every action, even such as were done out of the most studied desire to please, offended her; on these occasions she would reproach me with ingratitude, and enumerate the favours I had received from her. She would even cast oblique reflexions on me as being mercenary in accepting obligations, which she did not leave me the liberty of refusing. I now found, what I before had no idea of, that a giving hand, and a generous heart, are distinct things; true generosity of mind must be proof even against the most violent starts of ill temper; for though they can awaken the avarice that before lay dormant, yet they cannot make us repine at, or according to the vulgar expression grudge, those bounties which true generosity inclined us to bestow. A generous person sets so small a value on his noblest actions, that he scarcely feels he confers obligations; for in truth generosity does not consist in gifts, but in the estimation we set upon them, tho' we

‘ we are apt to mistake the fruit for the
‘ tree ; and yet vanity, a good natured
‘ but transient desire to please, and vari-
‘ ous other motives, frequently produce
‘ the same effects. I was one of those who
‘ lived in this error, till Mrs. Mayer taught
‘ me to refine on the subject, and to dis-
‘ tinguish, that of the many who give, few
‘ are really generous.

‘ This was not the only discovery she
‘ led me to make ; for if I found her un-
‘ generous, I perceived I was proud ; I
‘ should but ill have enjoyed the comforts
‘ of life when accompanied with such hu-
‘ miliating circumstances ; they could not
‘ have prevented my feeling true grati-
‘ tude for the bounty I received, but
‘ would have rendered the sensation pain-
‘ ful ; which on the contrary must have
‘ been very delightful, had my benefac-
‘ tress’s heart been as generous, as her
‘ hand was liberal : but to undergo this
‘ humiliation for things which I wished
‘ not to receive ; to be reminded of the
‘ great obligations I was under for pre-
‘ sents

‘sents which I accepted with pain, and only from a fear of offending, was very grievous to me, and I frequently thought gave me more uneasiness than poverty could have inflicted.

‘I often resolved to leave Mrs. Mayer, and stand no longer indebted for a subsistence to any thing but my own industry; at other times I only determined not to be prevailed with to accept any presents beyond what was absolutely necessary for my proper appearance in her house; but I as constantly found myself unequal to the execution of either; when a calm returned, the kindness of Mrs. Mayer’s behaviour banished my resentment; she seemed desirous of my company, and the gratitude I owed her, would not suffer me to resist her inclinations. When she offered me useless presents, I refused to accept them till I saw her grow angry; my spirit then sunk, and cowardice made me take what my heart rejected.

' I had lived above three years in this
 ' disagreeable and fluctuating state of
 ' mind ; too proud to bear humiliation
 ' without severe pangs, and yet so enslav-
 ' ed by gratitude and cowardice, that I
 ' had not power to free myself from it:
 ' When I first heard of this institution, I
 ' felt a strong desire to become one of the
 ' sisterhood ; and made several attempts
 ' to bring Mrs. Mayer to approve my
 ' applying for admission ; but with so
 ' little success, that I suppose I might ne-
 ' ver have attained to this happiness, if
 ' she had not been prevailed with to en-
 ' ter into a party, who were going to make
 ' the tour of France and Italy. She kind-
 ' ly designed taking me with her, but
 ' sensible of the inconveniencies arising
 ' from an increase of numbers, and being
 ' in no danger of wanting company, I
 ' found her better disposed to listen to
 ' my proposal, and I was fortunate enough
 ' to gain her consent.

' As the truly generous are more ready
 ' to give, than the necessitous are to ask,
 ' no

‘ no difficulties lye in the way to admif-
‘ sion into this house, if the person who
‘ applies has preserved a good character
‘ in the world ; my desire therefore was
‘ soon gratified ; and gladly I sought re-
‘ fuge here both from distress and insult ;
‘ though my joy was not entirely com-
‘ pleat, till experience had taught me that
‘ here I should find a degree of happiness
‘ far beyond my hopes, or even my wish-
‘ es. I expected ease and tranquillity,
‘ but I receive likewise every additional
‘ pleasure the world affords, from hands
‘ which are the most obedient servants of
‘ the noblest hearts : hearts which feel
‘ themselves obliged to us for giving them
‘ leave to make us happy. How pure,
‘ and unmixed with any painful sensation,
‘ is the gratitude we feel in this place !
‘ except that we pay to the supreme Be-
‘ ing, no sensation can be so delightful ;
‘ they differ only in degree, for they are
‘ of the like nature. If we have any cause
‘ of complaint, it is the too great delicacy
‘ of our benefactresses, which makes them

‘ sparing of their advice, lest respect for
‘ them should induce us to follow it in op-
‘ position to our own judgments ; and
‘ however great the necessity for reproof
‘ or admonition, they would not give it
‘ without the greatest reluctance.’

C H A P. III.

‘ **H**OW various are the uneasinesses,
‘ said another of the company, that
‘ arise from poverty ! Those who are born
‘ and bred in indigence, it is true, do not
‘ feel the variety ; the evils it inflicts on
‘ them are generally much the same, be-
‘ cause they are chiefly corporeal ; but in
‘ those who unfortunately have been edu-
‘ cated in a superior manner, and in their
‘ youth placed in a rank which they have
‘ not afterwards the power of support-
‘ ing, the mind is the seat of greatest suf-
‘ ferance ; the pride they acquire during
‘ their affluence, and a delicacy of senti-
‘ ment, which, though amiable, is ill suit-
‘ ed to the treatment the indigent too of-
‘ ten receive, prove continual sources of
‘ mortification

‘ mortification and anxiety. This is a
 ‘ truth of which I have good reason to be
 ‘ sensible, having experienced it.

‘ I had the misfortune to lose my mo-
 ‘ ther when I was about twenty two years
 ‘ old, and with her lost my sole depen-
 ‘ dence. We had for many years lived
 ‘ on a small annuity, bought for her by
 ‘ my father in the mercers company, and
 ‘ the allowance she received as an officer’s
 ‘ widow. Being a good œconomist, she had
 ‘ maintained herself and me neatly and gen-
 ‘ teelly on this small income ; but had not
 ‘ been able to save any thing for my future
 ‘ support, nor had I wished it ; my mo-
 ‘ ther was from her youth accustomed to
 ‘ affluence, and to have retired from the
 ‘ acquaintance of all her friends and re-
 ‘ lations, would have rendered the lat-
 ‘ ter part of her life, which naturally stands
 ‘ most in need of comfort, very melan-
 ‘ choly. I knew I had no fortune to ex-
 ‘ pect, and therefore was prepared for the
 ‘ change her death must make in my cir-

‘ circumstances ; and so well qualified for
‘ it, that I had no doubt of being able to
‘ maintain myself, and was determined to
‘ receive my support only from my own
‘ hands. I had seen enough of the fate
‘ of humble dependants to think of it with
‘ horror, but felt myself very capable of
‘ submitting to the vexations of servitude,
‘ or the labours of business ; and could
‘ not doubt, but with the recommenda-
‘ tion of friends, I should easily be sup-
‘ plied with the means.

‘ As soon, therefore, as my affliction
‘ for my mother’s death was sufficiently
‘ calmed, to suffer me to take any mea-
‘ sures for my future support, I consulted
‘ with my friends on the subject, and de-
‘ clared my resolution of going to service.
‘ Some of my relations offered to take me
‘ into their families on a genteel footing,
‘ as they expressed it ; but my choice
‘ arose from such long and mature con-
‘ sideration, that it was not easily chang-
‘ ed, and I persisted in my purpose, on-
‘ ly

ly desiring their good offices, in getting me placed in a worthy family. Their pride was severely mortified by my insisting on this point; they could not bear that a relation of theirs should appear in so mean a station, and strongly represented the disgrace I should bring on myself and family, by such an action. I frankly told them, that I saw it in a very different light; I could never think myself dishonoured by the exertion of an honest industry; since I had not inherited a provision, I thought it my duty to gain one; as nature had given me the power of supplying, in some measure, the deficiencies of fortune, I was certainly required to make a proper use of its gifts, and procure by my industry, a maintenance which my birth seemed to give me reason to expect from inheritance. To prefer a slavish dependance to honest labour, shewed an abject spirit, but to accommodate oneself with courage and resignation to one's circumstances,

stances, ought to be esteemed an honourable part.

‘ If my arguments were just, they were
‘ not availing ; my relations persisted in
‘ their opposition, and I found I had little
‘ chance of getting into any tolerable service, while they were determined to frustrate my views. I then took courage
‘ to propose their making a collection for
‘ me, telling them how happy and obliged I should think myself, if they would
‘ give me ten pounds each, and thereby
‘ enable me to enter into trade. I imagined they could not hope to provide for
‘ a poor relation at a less expence ; but
‘ whether the sum appeared too great to
‘ part with, or the occupation too mean
‘ for one of their family, I shall not pretend to say, but I found them as averse
‘ to this design as to the other. At length,
‘ desirous to remove from the eye of the
‘ world, the shame they thought my poverty brought upon them, twenty of my
‘ kindred offered to remit to me yearly

‘ a guinea each, if I would retire into
‘ Wales, where I might live easily on that
‘ income.

‘ I had always been accustomed to so-
‘ cial, though not gay life, had kept a
‘ sufficient portion of good company, and
‘ been agreeably received in it. My dis-
‘ position was well turned to society, and
‘ I found no inclination to inhabit a moun-
‘ tain, and disturb the solitude of goats;
‘ but I accepted this offer without hesita-
‘ tion, as it was the only independance
‘ permitted me; chusing to retire from
‘ all the people I loved and esteemed,
‘ from every thing that gave me pleasure,
‘ and go into a kind of new world, with-
‘ out connexions, without any agreeable
‘ expectations, rather than enter into a
‘ servile dependance. I should indeed owe
‘ my subsistence to my relations, but yet
‘ the sum from each was so very small,
‘ that the gratitude it demanded from me
‘ seemed no very heavy burden.

‘ Unable to get any satisfactory intelligence about the country I was to inhabit, I set out, at the solicitation of my relations, who were impatient to get me out of town, with an intention to seek for an abode when I came into Wales. The undertaking was somewhat wild, and rather too much for the spirits of one who had suffered so great a change of fortune, and had just taken her leave of every friend; but the love of independance supported me; and when I considered I was flying from all the insults and indignities, to which dependants are exposed, I seemed new animated, every difficulty vanished, my oppressed heart felt lighter, and my grief received some alleviation.

‘ Never having been used to the country, I had little taste for it, therefore I fixed in a country town; not from any peculiar charms I found in it, but because it was the first place where I had seen a tolerable lodging for the price I could afford to give; and any town
‘ ap-

‘ appeared less forlorn to me than a country
‘ cottage. But I soon learnt that numbers
‘ do not always make society. The peo-
‘ ple were so different from any company
‘ I had kept, for the town was a very
‘ mean one, their language so uncouth,
‘ their manners so rustic, that I could take
‘ no pleasure in their conversation. In
‘ this vacancy of mind, the charms of the
‘ country drew my attention; and as
‘ scarcely any part of the world offers more
‘ beauties to the eye, I began to find
‘ greater pleasure in rural quiet, than in
‘ the company of my neighbours; there-
‘ fore, after having passed a year in my
‘ first abode, I retired to a farm-house,
‘ which afforded me a better room than is
‘ generally to be found in a Welch cot-
‘ tage. This change of habitation grew
‘ seasonable, as it was cheaper; for instead
‘ of twenty, I received but eighteen gui-
‘ neas the second year, one of the contri-
‘ butors being dead, and another for-
‘ getful.

‘ I believe our taste for every rational
‘ pleasure encreases by indulgence. Thus
‘ at least I found it with my love for the
‘ country, of which I grew so fond, that
‘ I seldom regretted the want of society.
‘ It is true, I sometimes sighed for the
‘ pleasures of conversation, longed to
‘ communicate my sentiments to an intel-
‘ ligent being, and to gather new lights
‘ from some better instructed person than
‘ myself; but when I reflected on the
‘ tranquillity and liberty I enjoyed, I ac-
‘ quiesced in the solitude which necessarily
‘ accompanied it; and would not suffer
‘ the absence of higher pleasures, to ren-
‘ der me insensible to the gratifications
‘ my state allowed me. The farmer at
‘ whose house I lodged, had several fine
‘ children, from whom I received amuse-
‘ ment, while I hope I was not useless to
‘ them. The man and his wife were ho-
‘ nest, good-natured, and quiet, and as
‘ far as their attention had reached, were
‘ sensible and judicious. I could not pre-
‘ tend to make them fit company for me,
‘ there-

' therefore endeavoured to suit myself to
 ' their conversation, which could be done
 ' only by acquiring some knowledge of
 ' their business. Of the good woman
 ' therefore, I learnt the management of
 ' a dairy, and became a careful nurse to
 ' her poultry; with the man I conversed
 ' on agriculture, whereon he had never
 ' fallen into refined speculations, but was
 ' successful in the practical part. I could
 ' seldom get books, nor materials for any
 ' of the sorts of work which are thought
 ' amusing; the pleasures of the early
 ' morning hours made me an early riser;
 ' my days therefore were of a length that
 ' I should have found it difficult to em-
 ' ploy, had I not taken this turn. It
 ' proved indeed a great resource to me,
 ' for I became as interested for my land-
 ' lord's success as he himself was, and
 ' watched the first springing of the corn,
 ' or the safe delivery of his pregnant cattle,
 ' with equal care. With more activity I
 ' joined in the good woman's occupations;
 ' and frequently had no small share in the
 ' making

making of cheese and butter. They indulged me in getting a greater variety of poultry, of which I grew very fond, and became a very successful nurse.

In this retirement, the world did not exhibit to me its gayest side, but I saw it in an amiable light; the harmony of the family I lived in was highly pleasing; their love was, indeed, void of those various delicacies and refinements, which, under a false shew of yielding us exquisite delight, expose us to a variety of real pains; but was plain, simple, and rational, affording them much solid satisfaction, unmixed with fears and anxieties. Their happiness was perhaps as great as this world can bestow, but so free from the glare which dazzles us, that the most envious might have beheld it without envy, as the possessors enjoyed it without intoxication. I had the pleasure of finding I possessed no small share of their honest love; my conformity to a station wherein they perceived

I was

'I was not born; my attachment to their
 'interests, my readiness to assist them,
 'my care of their children, for whom I
 'as industriously worked as if they had
 'been my own, not having otherwise
 'much employ for my needle, recom-
 'mended me to their affection; and the
 'good sale of their corn and bullocks,
 'the hatching of a brood of chickens, or
 'the first bringing forth of a litter of
 'pigs, seemed to give them double plea-
 'sure, when they communicated it to me;
 'and they would run to me with the ut-
 'most impatience to tell the good news,

'In this tranquil state I could content-
 'edly have passed my life, but every
 'year brought a decrease of income.
 'Death deprived me of some of my be-
 'nefactors, whose successors gave me no
 'reason to believe they knew that the re-
 'lationship was inherited; and I died in
 'the remembrance of many, who still
 'lived. Thus by a gradual decrease, the
 'sixth year of my abode in Wales I re-
 'ceived

‘ceived but six guineas. Notwithstanding
‘ing the diminution of my allowance,
‘I had hitherto lived upon it, but the
‘sum now was grown too small, and from
‘what I had already experienced, I saw
‘great reason to fear that even this poor
‘supply would soon fail me. I should
‘have been glad to have remained in my
‘cottage, as long as my money would
‘permit, but the impossibility of getting
‘away when that was spent, put me under
‘a necessity of not delaying the measures
‘requisite for my future subsistence. I
‘therefore determined, while I could de-
‘fray the expences of travelling, to re-
‘move to London, and get into the best
‘service I could obtain; which my rela-
‘tions had no title to impede, since they
‘had shewn me how little they were to be
‘depended on.

‘With great regret I forsook my cot-
‘tage, and the pain with which I took
‘leave of my honest friends, was much
‘increased by the concern they shewed on
‘the

‘ the occasion ; but the measure was ne-
 ‘ cessary, and therefore inclination was
 ‘ forced to give way. When I arrived in
 ‘ town, I found my intention opposed
 ‘ by such of my relations as were there ;
 ‘ but I was determined to persist in it ;
 ‘ and since my own pride did not obstruct
 ‘ my gaining a maintenance, thought I
 ‘ had good right to refuse permitting
 ‘ theirs to starve me. When they per-
 ‘ ceived my purpose was fixed unalte-
 ‘ rably, one of them informed me of this
 ‘ institution, and advised me to apply for
 ‘ admission. Each would gladly have
 ‘ given a guinea a year to have concealed
 ‘ from the world the poverty of so near a
 ‘ relation, but since their number was no
 ‘ longer sufficient to support me, they
 ‘ thought I should be less known, conse-
 ‘ quently less disgrace them, in this retreat
 ‘ than if placed in the metropolis. I was
 ‘ very ready to follow their advice ; well
 ‘ aware of the vexations that attend ser-
 ‘ vitude, I had brought myself to submit
 ‘ to the thought of being subject to the
 ‘ caprice

caprice, and perhaps ill temper of a
mistress, and the irksome conversation
of people who too often unite the lowest
mind and manners with pride and affectation, as to a state which I could not avoid, but by things still more disagreeable. I considered it as the lesser evil, but still a very great one; and therefore the hope of escaping it gave me no small joy; and as the benevolent are quick in dispensing comfort, my hope was soon turned into certainty; and here I found an asylum from every evil that seemed to threaten me, and together with equal peace and tranquility to that my cottage afforded, enjoy all the best pleasures of society, agreeable conversation, and sincere friendship. I now find that though corn and cattle, dairy and poultry filled my time, rational intercourse can only fill the heart. Instead of that dull sameness of life, wherein nothing but the hatching of a chicken, or the dropping of a calf distinguished one day from another, I here enjoy variety with-

out

' out hurry or confusion. The liberty al-
 ' lowed to every one of chusing her own
 ' amusement, and the full provision of all
 ' things that can contribute towards it,
 ' occasions such variety of employments
 ' amongst so large a number, that as any
 ' one may without offence prefer solitude
 ' to society, so if one chuses to listen to,
 ' or to join in music, to work, to walk,
 ' to read, or even play at cards, she may
 ' always find a party at each, where she
 ' will be agreeably received, as we live
 ' in general harmony, though we natural-
 ' ly form more intimate connexions with
 ' some, than with others.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.